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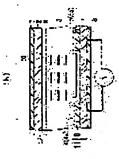
(54) DISPLAY ELEMENT

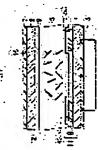
(57) Abstract:

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PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a display element, in which contrast is not lowered and which is superior in high speed responsiveness and viewing angle characteristics.

SOLUTION: The display element is equipped with a pair of substrates 1, 2 of which at least one is transparent, a medium layer 3 composed of a medium interposed between the pair of substrates 1, 2 and having optical anisotropy varied by the application of electric field, and polarizing plates 6, 7 disposed on the side opposite to the surface facing the medium layer 3 of at least the one substrate 1 of either of the pair of substrates 1, 2. Also, the surface of at least the one substrate 1 of either of the substrates 1, 2 opposite to the other substrate 2 is subjected to alignment processing with an aligning direction parallel or vertical to the polarization absorbing axis of either of the polarizing plates 6, 7, or to vertical alignment processing.





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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

The opposed face of the medium from which at least one side is pinched between the substrate of a transparent pair and the substrate of this pair, and optical anisotropy changes with impression of electric field, and the above-mentioned medium in one [among the substrates of the above-mentioned pair / at least] substrate is the display device equipped with at least one polarizing plate arranged in the opposite side,

The display device characterized by it being parallel, or intersecting perpendicularly, and level orientation processing being performed to the absorption shaft of at least one polarizing plate among the substrates of a top Norikazu pair on the opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one [at least] substrate, or performing perpendicular orientation processing. [Claim 2]

the above-mentioned substrate -- abbreviation -- parallel electric field are impressed to the above-mentioned medium -- while having the electrode of a pair at least

The display device according to claim 1 to which the orientation processing direction in the above-mentioned level orientation processing is characterized by making the include angle of less than **10 degrees 45 degrees to the electric-field impression direction by the above-mentioned electrode.

[Claim 3]

the inside of the substrate of a top Norikazu pair — one substrate — this substrate — abbreviation — parallel electric field are impressed to the above-mentioned medium — while having the electrode of a pair at least

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by preparing the level orientation film in the substrate front face of another side.

[Claim 4]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by performing level orientation processing to parallel or anti-parallel mutually on the mutual opposed face front face in the substrate of a top Norikazu pair.

[Claim 5]

The above-mentioned medium is a display device according to claim 1 characterized by showing the optical isotropy at the time of no electric-field impressing, and showing optical anisotropy by impression of an electrical potential difference.

[Claim 6]

The above-mentioned medium is a display device according to claim 1 characterized by showing optical anisotropy at the time of no electric-field impressing, and showing the optical isotropy by impression of an electrical potential difference.

[Claim 7]

The above-mentioned medium is a display device according to claim 1 characterized by having the orientation order below the wavelength of light at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression or no electrical-potential-difference impressing.

[Claim 8]

The display device according to claim 1 to which the above-mentioned medium is characterized by having the order structure which shows cubic symmetric property.

[Claim 9]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a molecule in which a cubic phase or a smectic D phase is shown.

[Claim 10]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a liquid crystal micro emulsion.

[Claim 11]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a lyotropic liquid crystal in which a micell phase, an inverted micelle phase, a sponge phase, or a cubic phase is shown.

[Claim 12]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a liquid crystal particle dispersed system which shows a micell phase, an inverted micelle phase, a sponge phase, or a cubic phase.

[Claim 13]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of DIN DORIMA.

[Claim 14]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a molecule in which a cholesteric blue phase is shown.

[Claim 15]

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by the above-mentioned medium consisting of a molecule in which a smectic blue phase is shown.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention]

[0001]

This invention relates to the display device which has the display engine performance of the wide field of view in a high-speed responsibility list.

[Background of the Invention]

[0002]

Also in various display devices, with the thin shape, a liquid crystal display component has the advantage that a light weight and power consumption are small, and is widely used for OA (Office Automation) devices, such as image display devices, such as television and video, and a monitor, a word processor, a personal computer.

[0003]

TN (Twisted Nematic) mode using the former, for example, a nematic liquid crystal, as a liquid crystal display method of a liquid crystal display component, a display mode, a polymer dispersed liquid crystal display mode using a ferroelectric liquid crystal (FLC) or antiferroelectricity liquid crystal (AFLC), etc. are known.

[0004]

Also in it, conventionally, although the liquid crystal display component in TN (Twisted Nematic) mode using the nematic liquid crystal as a liquid crystal display component put in practical use is mentioned, there is a fault, like an angle of visibility with a slow response is narrow, and these faults are the liquid crystal display components using this TN mode with big hindrance, for example, when exceeding CRT (cathode ray tube).

[0005]

Moreover, although in the case of the display mode using FLC or AFLC a response is quick and it has the advantage that an angle of visibility is large, there is a big fault in respect of shock-proof nature, the temperature characteristic, etc., and by the time it is put in practical use widely, it will not have resulted.

[0006]

Furthermore, although the polymer dispersed liquid crystal display mode using light scattering does not need a polarizing plate but a daylight display is possible, when viewing-angle control by the phase plate cannot be performed in essence, it has the technical problem in respect of the response characteristic, and there is few predominance over TN mode.

[0007]

Each of these means of displaying is in the condition that the liquid crystal molecule aligned in the fixed direction, and since how for it to be visible with the include angle to a liquid crystal molecule differs, they has a viewing—angle limit. Moreover, each of these means of displaying uses rotation of the liquid crystal molecule by electric—field impression, and since they rotates [with all of], with a liquid crystal molecule aligned, a response takes time amount to them. In addition, in the case of the display mode using FLC or AFLC, in respect of a speed of response or an angle of visibility, it is advantageous, but the irreversible orientation destruction by external force poses a problem.

[8000]

On the other hand, the means of displaying by the electronic polarization using the secondary electro-optical effect is proposed to these means of displaying using rotation of the molecule by electric-field impression.

[0009]

The electro-optical effect is the phenomenon in which the refractive index of the matter changes with external electric fields. There are effectiveness proportional to primary [of electric field] and effectiveness proportional to secondary in the electro-optical effect, and it is called the Pockels effect and the Kerr effect, respectively. Application to a high-speed optical shutter is advanced early, and, especially as for the secondary electro-optical effect called the Kerr effect, utilization is made in the special measuring machine machine, the Kerr effect will be discovered by J.Kerr (car) in 1875, and ingredients, such as organic liquids, such as a nitrobenzene and a carbon disulfide, will get to know it until now as an ingredient in which the Kerr effect is shown — having — **** — these ingredients — for example, it is used for high field strength measurement of a power cable etc. other than said optical shutter carried out. [0010]

Then, having a Kerr constant with a big liquid crystal ingredient is shown, a light modulation element, an optical polarizing element, and basic examination further turned to optical-integrated-circuit application are performed, and the liquid crystal compound in which the Kerr constant exceeding 200 times of said nitrobenzene is shown is also reported.

[0011]

The application to the display of the Kerr effect is beginning to be considered in such a situation. Since the Kerr effect is proportional to secondary [of electric field], when a low-battery drive can be expected relatively, in order to show the response characteristic of several

microseconds - mm second, the application to a high-speed response display is essentially expected.

[0012]

The medium which consists of liquid crystallinity matter is enclosed between the substrates of a pair, electric field parallel to a substrate or perpendicular are impressed, induction of the Kerr effect is carried out, and applying as a display device is proposed in the inside of such a situation, for example, the patent reference 1, the patent reference 2, and nonpatent literature 1.

[0013]

In such a display device, the gradation display is performed by arranging the polarizing plate with which each outside of the above-mentioned substrate and a mutual absorption shaft cross at right angles, and a birefringence's occurring at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression, and bringing about the permeability change by this, while media are directions [target / optical] and a black display is realized at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing. For this reason, the contrast of the direction of a substrate normal can realize a very high value.

[Patent reference 1] JP,2001-249363,A (September 14, 2001 public presentation)

[Patent reference 2] JP,11-183937,A (July 9, 1999 public presentation)

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[Nonpatent literature 2] Takashi Kato and an outside binary name, "Fast and High-Contrast Electro-optical Switching of Liquid-Crystalline Physical Gels: Formation of Oriented Microphase-Separated Structures", Adv.Funct.Mater., April, 2003, vol.13.No.4, p313-317 [Nonpatent literature 3] Kazuya Saito and outside — one person, "the thermodynamics of the new thermotropic liquid crystal which is isotropy optically", liquid crystal, 2001, the 5th volume, and the 1st — No. p.20-27

[Nonpatent literature 4] The Yamamoto **, "a liquid crystal micro emulsion", liquid crystal, 2000, the 4th volume, No. 3, p.248-254

[Nonpatent literature 5] Shiroishi The application to Yukie, and palladium nano particle-preparation and the guest-host mode liquid crystal display component which protected by four persons and "liquid crystal molecule outside", macromolecule collected works, December, 2002, Vol.59, No.12, p.753-759

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[Nonpatent literature 12] the Yamamoto **** and outside — one person, "an organic opto electronics material", National Technical Report, December, 1976, and vol. — 22, No.6, and p.826-834

[Description of the Invention]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

[0014]

However, according to the detailed examination by an invention—in—this—application person etc., it turned out that it is found out that the fall phenomenon of contrast (white display brightness / black display brightness) happens depending on the case, and the display device which has the above—mentioned conventional configuration has a problem in the practicality of television using the above—mentioned display device, or a personal computer monitor.

[0015]

According to an invention-in-this-application person's etc. examination, the following two factors are mentioned as a factor to which contrast falls.
[0016]

When a power source is first supplied to one in the display equipped with the conventional display device or this conventional ***** which used for the display medium the medium which optical anisotropy discovers by impression of electric field, and ambient temperature is low, the above-mentioned medium does not reach the temperature which should be driven essentially, but it is mentioned that the physical condition of a medium may differ from the condition that it should have essentially at the time of a component drive. For example, when the abovementioned medium must drive essentially in the state of the isotropic phase of the phasetransition-temperature right above of a nematic-isotropic phase, it may be a low-temperature nematic state from the above-mentioned phase transition temperature at the power up. In this case, non-electric-field impression also has optical anisotropy, and if nematic, light is made penetrated by that optical anisotropy, when isotropic state must attain a black display essentially in the state of no electric-field impressing. Therefore, a good black display becomes impossible to such a case, and contrast will fall to it. Of course, although a display device can be overheated according to a heater or the light source (back light) and a good display can be obtained, it is not easy to raise temperature and to stabilize it in an instant. [0017]

It is mentioned that there is a case where it becomes impossible to realize an optically isotropic condition since another will be firmly adsorbed in the molecule which constitutes a medium from a substrate interface with a substrate in the bulk field distant from the substrate interface in the interior of a cel even if the medium (display medium) has realized the optically isotropic condition. For example, when making it drive at the temperature of phase—transition—temperature right above 0.1K of a nematic—isotropic phase, near the substrate interface is a nematic state. [0018]

Anyway, near a substrate interface, by the medium near [which differs from the bulk field where the physical condition of the above-mentioned medium separated from the substrate interface in the interior of a cel unlike the condition that it should have essentially at the time of a component drive by the absorption phenomenon] the substrate interface, the phenomenon which light penetrates at the time of a black display will occur, consequently contrast will fall. [0019]

This invention is made in view of the above-mentioned trouble, and the purpose is in offering the display device which does not invite the above-mentioned trouble, i.e., the display device which contrast did not fall and was excellent in high-speed responsibility and an angle-of-visibility property.

[Means for Solving the Problem] [0020]

In order that the display device concerning this invention may solve the above-mentioned technical problem, the substrate of a pair at least with transparent one side, The medium from which it is pinched between the substrates of this pair, and optical anisotropy changes with impression of electric field, The opposed face with the above-mentioned medium in one [at least] substrate is the display device equipped with at least one polarizing plate arranged in the opposite side among the substrates of a top Norikazu pair. It is characterized by it being parallel, or intersecting perpendicularly, and level orientation processing being performed to the absorption shaft of at least one polarizing plate among the substrates of a top Norikazu pair, on the opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one [at least] substrate, or performing perpendicular orientation processing.

[0021]

According to the above-mentioned configuration, among the substrates of the above-mentioned pair on an opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one [at least] substrate Level orientation processing of the direction which is parallel or intersects perpendicularly with the absorption shaft of at least one polarizing plate, i.e., the absorption shaft of which polarizing plate with which the opposed face with the above-mentioned medium in one [at least] substrate has been arranged among the substrates of the above-mentioned pair in the opposite side. Or by perpendicular orientation processing being performed, even if ambient temperature is low and it is the case where a medium does not reach the temperature which should be driven essentially but the physical condition of a medium differs from the condition at the time of an original drive in the power up Since the orientation of the above-mentioned medium can be made to carry out in the above-mentioned orientation direction (the orientation processing direction) It becomes possible to be able to vanish the optical contribution by this medium (medium by which physical condition differs from the condition at the time of an original drive), to also set, by the time the temperature of the above-mentioned display device rises, and to realize a good display. Moreover, according to the above-mentioned configuration, even if it reached desired drive temperature, it does not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface can acquire high contrast. Therefore, according to the above-mentioned configuration, the effectiveness that the display device which contrast did not fall and was excellent in high-speed responsibility and an angle-of-visibility property can be offered is done so.

[0022]

in order that [moreover,] the display device concerning this invention may solve the above—mentioned technical problem — the above—mentioned substrate — abbreviation — it is characterized by the orientation processing direction in the above—mentioned level orientation processing which impresses parallel electric field to the above—mentioned medium while having the electrode of a pair at least making the include angle of less than **10 degrees 45 degrees to the electric—field impression direction by the above—mentioned electrode.

[0023]

As described above, electric field do so the effectiveness that permeability can be maximized because the orientation processing direction in level orientation processing makes the include angle of less than **10 degrees 45 degrees to the electric—field impression direction by the above—mentioned electrode in the display device impressed to abbreviation parallel to a substrate.

[0024]

the above-mentioned display device — the inside of the substrate of the above-mentioned pair — one substrate — this substrate — abbreviation — while having the electrode of a pair at least, the thing which impress parallel electric field to the above-mentioned medium and for which the level orientation film is prepared in the substrate front face of another side is desirable.

[0025]

If the orientation film is formed on an electrode, the electrical potential difference impressed effective in the above-mentioned medium, i.e., a display medium, will fall. Furthermore, although it is not the case where the above-mentioned level orientation film is formed in both the substrates front face, said effectiveness can be acquired also when the level orientation film is formed only in one substrate front face.

[0026]

therefore, an opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one substrate, for example, one substrate, — this substrate — abbreviation — parallel electric field are impressed to the above-mentioned medium, while having the electrode of a pair at least The effectiveness that black brightness can be made small is done so, without the voltage drop by the orientation film not occurring, but the driver voltage of a component going up by the above-mentioned level orientation film being prepared in the substrate front face of another side, i.e., the substrate front face by the side of electrode agenesis. Moreover, according to the above-mentioned

configuration, even if it became desired drive temperature, it does not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface does so collectively the effectiveness that high contrast can be acquired.

[0027]

Moreover, as for the above-mentioned display device, it is desirable to perform level orientation processing to parallel or anti-parallel mutually on the mutual opposed face front face in the substrate of the above-mentioned pair.

[0028]

The effectiveness that maximization of contrast can be attained, for example, black brightness can be made still smaller by level orientation processing being mutually performed to parallel or anti-parallel on the mutual opposed face front face in the substrate of a top Norikazu pair is done so. In addition, in this invention, the case where the mutual orientation processing direction is parallel and where the sense is the same shall be shown, the mutual orientation processing direction shall be parallel to anti-parallel, and the case where the sense is the contrary (reverse) shall be indicated to be parallel with them.

[0029]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may show the optical isotropy at the time of no electric-field impressing, may show optical anisotropy by impression of an electrical potential difference, may show optical anisotropy at the time of no electric-field impressing, and may show the optical isotropy by impression of an electrical potential difference.

the above — also in which configuration, by impression of electric field, the configuration of the index ellipsoid of the above—mentioned medium can be changed in the time of no electric—field impressing and electric—field impression, and the direction of optical anisotropy can be displayed by changing extent of optical anisotropy (whenever [orientation order], refractive index), while it has been fixed. Therefore, also in which the above—mentioned configuration, the effectiveness that the display device which has a wide—field—of—view angle property and a high-speed response characteristic is realizable is done so.

[0031]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may have the orientation order below the wavelength of light at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression or no electrical-potential-difference impressing.

[0032]

If orientation order is below the wavelength of light, isotropy is shown optically. Therefore, the effectiveness that the display condition at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression can certainly be changed is done so by using the medium by which orientation order becomes below the wavelength of light at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression or no electrical-potential-difference impressing. [0033]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may have the order structure which shows cubic symmetric property.

[0034]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a molecule in which a cubic phase or a smectic D phase is shown.

[0035]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a liquid crystal micro emulsion. [0036]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a lyotropic liquid crystal in which a micell phase, an inverted micelle phase, a sponge phase, or a cubic phase is shown.

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a liquid crystal particle dispersed system which shows a micell phase, an inverted micelle phase, a sponge phase, or a cubic phase.

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of DIN DORIMA.

[0039]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a molecule in which a cholesteric blue phase is shown.

[0040]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium may consist of a molecule in which a smectic blue phase is shown.

[0041]

When each above-mentioned matter impresses electric field, optical anisotropy changes. Therefore, each above-mentioned matter can be used as the above-mentioned medium. [Effect of the Invention]

[0042]

The display device concerning this invention among the substrates of the above-mentioned pair as mentioned above on an opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one [at least] substrate By it being parallel, or intersecting perpendicularly, and level orientation processing being performed to the absorption shaft of at least one polarizing plate among the substrates of a top Norikazu pair, on the opposed face front face with the substrate of another side in one [at least] substrate, or perpendicular orientation processing being performed For example, even if ambient temperature is low and it is the case where a medium does not reach the temperature which should be driven essentially but the physical condition of a medium differs from the condition at the time of an original drive in the power up Since the orientation of the above-mentioned medium can be made to carry out in the above-mentioned orientation direction (the orientation processing direction) It becomes possible to be able to vanish the optical contribution by this medium (medium by which physical condition differs from the condition at the time of an original drive), to also set, by the time the temperature of the above-mentioned display device rises, and to realize a good display. Moreover, according to the above-mentioned configuration, even if it reached desired drive temperature, it does not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface can acquire high contrast. Therefore, according to the above-mentioned configuration, the effectiveness that the display device which contrast did not fall and was excellent in high-speed responsibility and an angle-ofvisibility property can be offered is done so.

[Best Mode of Carrying Out the Invention]
[0043]

It will be as follows if one gestalt of operation of this invention is explained based on <u>drawing 1</u> thru/or <u>drawing 13</u>.

[0044]

Drawing 1 (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing (OFF condition), and <u>drawing 1</u> (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition (ON condition). Moreover, <u>drawing 2</u> is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above-mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing. Furthermore, <u>drawing 3</u> is drawing explaining the relation between an example of electrode structure and this electrode structure in the above-mentioned display device, and a polarizing plate absorption shaft.

[0045]

<u>Drawing 1</u> (a) as shown in – (b), the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation It has the substrate (it is hereafter described as the pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12) of a pair at least with transparent one side which countered mutually and has been arranged. Between the substrates of these pairs as an optical modulation layer It has the cellular structure by which the medium layer 3 which consists of a medium (it is hereafter described as Medium A) which carries out an optical modulation by impression of electric field is pinched. [0046]

Moreover, as shown in drawing 1 (a) - (b), the above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and the

opposite substrate 12 have the substrate 1 as a medium maintenance means (optical modulation layer maintenance means), and 2, respectively, and have the configuration in which a polarizing plate 6 and 7 are prepared in the field of the opposite side, respectively with the substrate 1 of these pairs and the outside of 2 (outside of the pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12), i.e., both [these] the substrates 1 and the opposed face of 2. [0047]

One [at least] substrate has translucency among the substrates 1–2 of a top Norikazu pair. for example, consist of transparent substrates, such as a glass substrate, and among the substrates 1–2 of these pairs on an opposed face with the substrate 2 of another side in one substrate 1 it is shown in drawing 1 (a) – (b) — as — the above—mentioned substrate 1 — abbreviation — opposite arrangement of the electrode 4 which is an electric—field impression means for impressing parallel electric field (sideways electric field) to the above—mentioned medium layer 3, and 5 is carried out mutually.

[0048]

The above-mentioned electrode 4-5 consists of electrode materials, such as transparent electrode ingredients, such as ITO (indium stannic acid ghost), and is set, for example as the line breadth of 5 micrometers, the inter-electrode distance (electrode spacing) of 5 micrometers, and the thickness of 0.3 micrometers with the gestalt of this operation. However, line breadth, inter-electrode distance, and thickness are mere examples, and are not limited to the above-mentioned electrode material list by this. although the Kushigata electrode by which opposite arrangement was carried out is mentioned in the direction in which 5a gears with ctenidium partial 4a mutually as an example of the above-mentioned electrode 4-5 as shown, for example in drawing 3 — the above-mentioned substrate 1 — abbreviation — parallel electric field (sideways electric field) — the above-mentioned medium layer 3 — it can even impress — if it carries out, it will not be limited especially. [0049]

Furthermore, the orientation film 8 (dielectric thin film) with which rubbing processing was performed is brought into an opposed face front face with the opposite substrate 12 in the opposed face top 11 with the substrate 2 in the above-mentioned substrate 1, i.e., the above-mentioned pixel substrate, all over an opposed face with the substrate 2 in the above-mentioned substrate 1, and is formed in it so that the above-mentioned electrode 4–5 may be covered. [0050]

Moreover, the orientation film 9 (dielectric thin film) with which rubbing processing was performed is brought also into an opposed face front face with the pixel substrate 11 in the opposed face top 12 with the substrate 1 in the above-mentioned substrate 2, i.e., the above-mentioned opposite substrate, all over an opposed face with the substrate 1 in the above-mentioned substrate 2, and is formed in it. [0051]

As the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 is shown in <u>drawing 2</u>, level rubbing processing (level orientation processing) of substrate side inboard is performed for the orientation processing direction as the above-mentioned rubbing processing so that the direction of rubbing may be in agreement with one of polarizing plate absorption shafts among absorption shaft 6a and 7a of the above-mentioned polarizing plate 6-7 (refer to <u>drawing 3</u>, polarizing plate absorption shaft).

[0052]

Moreover, as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> and <u>drawing 3</u>, as for the polarizing plate absorption shaft in each polarizing plate 6-7, the polarizing plate 6-7 is making the include angle of 45 degrees to the electric-field impression direction of an electrode 4-5 while being arranged so that mutual polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations may intersect perpendicularly. [0053]

In the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, as shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (b), when whenever [orientation order] goes up in the electric-field impression direction, optical anisotropy is discovered, and the medium layer 3 may function as a display device of the shutter mold from which permeability changes. Therefore, to the polarizing plate absorption shaft

orientations which intersect perpendicularly mutually, the direction of an anisotropy gives the maximum permeability, when making the include angle of 45 degrees. In addition, permeability (P) when bearing which the optical anisotropy of Medium A discovers presupposes that it exists in the include angle of **theta (degree) at a polarizing plate absorption shaft, respectively permeability in case it estimates from P(%) =Sin2 (2theta) and Above theta is 45 degrees — 100% — then If it is about 90% or more, since it will be sensed to human being's eyes that it has the maximum brightness, if Above theta is 35 < theta< 55 degrees, it will be sensed to have the maximum brightness to human being's eyes. That is, as shown in the gestalt of this operation, electric field can maximize permeability by the display device impressed to abbreviation parallel at a substrate 1 because polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations and the orientation processing direction [in other words] (the direction of rubbing) in level orientation processing make the include angle of 45 degrees most suitably less than **5 times 45 degrees less than **10 degrees 45 degrees to the electric—field impression direction by the above—mentioned electrode 4-5.

[0054]

[0056]

With the gestalt of this operation, as shown in <u>drawing 23</u>, the polarizing plate 6-7 prepared in both the substrates 1-2, respectively is formed so that the include angle whose polarizing plate absorption shaft and electrode expanding direction of an electrode 4-5 (ctenidium partial 4aand5a) in each polarizing plate 6-7 are 45 degrees may be made, while mutual polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations intersect perpendicularly.
[0055]

Therefore, in the above-mentioned display device, the electric-field impression direction by the above-mentioned electrode 4-5 is making the direction of rubbing of the orientation film 8-9, and the include angle of 45 degrees in the polarizing plate absorption shaft-orientations list of the above-mentioned polarizing plate 6-7.

In the gestalt of this operation, the direction of rubbing in the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 If it is clear and is in accordance with one polarizing plate absorption shaft of the above-mentioned polarizing plates 6-7 as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> You may be parallel (the mutual direction of orientation (processing) is parallel, and the sense is the same) mutually, and the anti-parallel of orientation (processing) (antiparallelism), i.e., the mutual direction, may be parallel, and the sense may be the contrary (reverse), and you may lie at right angles.

[0057]

The above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 used in the gestalt of this operation respectively you may be the organic film, and may be the inorganic film, the degree of the order of the orientation of the molecule 10 which constitutes the above-mentioned medium A is raised, and orientation of this molecule 10 is carried out towards desired — it can even make, if it carries out Although not limited especially, when the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 is formed with an organic thin film, since a good orientation effect is shown, it is more desirable to use an organic thin film as the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9. Polyimide is extremely stable and reliable also in such an organic thin film, and since the extremely excellent orientation effect is shown, the display device which shows the better display engine performance to an orientation film ingredient by using polyimide can be offered.

[0058]

In addition, the commercial level orientation film can be used as the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9.

[0059]

Moreover, as the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9, since the orientation control is easy, you may have the functional group (it is hereafter described as an optical functional group) which has light-sensitive nature. Although a cinnamate system, a chalcone system, etc. which carry out a dimerization reaction, for example, the azo which carries out isomerization are mentioned as the above-mentioned optical functional group, this invention is not limited to this.

When the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 has an optical functional group, desired

orientation processing can be easily performed by irradiating the ultraviolet rays which polarized (it being hereafter described as a polarization ultraviolet radiation exposure), and making above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and opposite substrate 12 front face, i.e., the 8-orientation film 9 above-mentioned front face, discover orientation restraining force.
[0061]

The above-mentioned display device is formed by enclosing said medium A with lamination and its opening through spacers which are not illustrated, such as a plastics bead and a glass fiber spacer, if needed by the sealing compound which does not illustrate the above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12 for example.

[0062]

The above-mentioned medium A used for the gestalt of this operation is a medium from which optical anisotropy changes by impressing electric field. Although electric displacement Dij=epsilon ij-Ej will be produced if electric field Ej are added from the exterior into the matter, a slight change is then looked at by the dielectric constant (epsilonij). On the frequency of light, since the square of a refractive index (n) is equivalent to a dielectric constant, the above-mentioned medium A can also be said to be the matter from which a refractive index changes by impression of electric field.

Thus, unlike the liquid crystal display component for which, as for the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, the refractive index of the matter displays using the phenomenon (electro-optical effect) of changing with external electric fields, and the molecule (the direction of orientation of a molecule) used rotating together by electric—field impression, the direction of optical anisotropy hardly changes, but displays by change (mainly electronic polarization and orientation polarization) of extent of the optical anisotropy.

[0064]

[0063]

as the above-mentioned medium A, you may be matter which is the methods of ** (macroscopic — seeing — etc. — what is necessary is just a direction) optically, and optical anisotropy discovers by electric-field impression at the time of no electric-field impressing, such as matter in which the Pockels effect or the Kerr effect is shown, and may be the matter in which it has optical anisotropy at the time of no electric-field impressing, an anisotropy disappears by electric-field impression, and isotropy (macroscopic — seeing — etc. — what is necessary is just a direction) is shown optically. typical — the time of no electric-field impressing — optical — etc. — it is a direction (macroscopic — seeing — etc. — what is necessary is just a direction), and is the medium which discovers an optical modulation (it is desirable for a birefringence to go up especially by electric-field impression) by electric-field impression. [0065]

In the state of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, in the state of electrical-potential-difference impression, the Pockels effect and the Kerr effect (in itself, observed in the state of an isotropic phase) are the electro-optical effects proportional to secondary [of electric field / primary or secondary], and since it is an isotropic phase, it is optically isotropic, but when a birefringence is discovered, they can modulate [in the field to which electric field are impressed, the direction of a major axis of the molecule of a compound can carry out orientation of them in the direction of electric field, and] permeability, respectively. For example, since each molecule arranged at random by in the case of the means of displaying using the matter in which the Kerr effect is shown impressing electric field and controlling the spin polarization of electron in one intramolecular rotates separately respectively and the sense is changed, a speed of response is very quick, and since the molecule has arranged disorderly, there is an advantage that there is no viewing-angle limit. In addition, what sees roughly among the above-mentioned media A, and is proportional to secondary [of electric field / primary or secondary] can be treated as matter in which the Pockels effect or the Kerr effect is shown.

[0066]

As matter in which the Pockels effect is shown, although organic solid materials, such as a hexamine, etc. are mentioned, it is not limited especially, for example. As the above-mentioned medium A, the various organic materials and inorganic material in which the Pockels effect is

shown can be used.

[0067]

Moreover, as matter in which the Kerr effect is shown, it is following structure-expression (1) - (4).

[0068]

[Formula 1]

[0069]

Although it comes out and the liquid crystallinity matter shown is mentioned, it is not limited especially.

[0070]

The Kerr effect is observed in a transparent medium to incident light. For this reason, the matter in which the Kerr effect is shown is used as a transparent medium. Usually, the liquid crystallinity matter shifts to the isotropic phase which has random orientation with a molecular level from a liquid crystal phase with short-distance order in connection with a temperature rise. That is, the Kerr effect of the liquid crystallinity matter is a phenomenon looked at by the liquid of the isotropic phase condition beyond liquid crystal phase [not a nematic phase but]-isotropic phase temperature, and the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter is used as a transparent dielectric liquid.

[0071]

Dielectric liquids, such as liquid crystallinity matter, will be in an isotropic phase condition, so that the operating environment temperature (whenever [stoving temperature]) by heating is high, therefore, in using dielectric liquids, such as liquid crystallinity matter, as the abovementioned medium In order to use this dielectric liquid in the state of a transparent liquid to transparence, i.e., the light For example, heating means, such as a heater which is not illustrated, are formed around (1) medium layer 3. May heat the above—mentioned dielectric liquid with this heating means beyond the clearing point, may use, and (2) By the thermal radiation from a back light, heat conduction (the above—mentioned back light and a circumference drive circuit function as a heating means in this case) from a back light and/or a circumference drive circuit, etc., the

above-mentioned dielectric liquid may be heated beyond that clearing point, and may be used. Moreover, a sheet-like heater (heating means) may be pasted together as a heater to at least the (3) above-mentioned substrate 1 and one side of 2, and you may heat and use for predetermined temperature at them. Furthermore, in order to use the above-mentioned dielectric liquid in the state of transparence, the clearing point may use an ingredient lower than the operating-temperature-limits minimum of the above-mentioned display device. [0072]

As for the above-mentioned medium A, it is desirable to include the liquid crystallinity matter, and when using the liquid crystallinity matter as the above-mentioned medium A, although it is the transparent liquid in which an isotropic phase is shown, it is macroscopically desirable [this liquid crystallinity matter] to include the cluster which is the molecule ensemble who has the short-distance order microscopically arranged in the fixed direction. In addition, since the abovementioned liquid crystallinity matter is used in the transparent condition to the light, the abovementioned cluster is also used in the transparent (directions [target / optical]) condition to the light.

[0073]

For this reason, the above-mentioned display device as are mentioned above, and temperature control may be performed using heating means, such as a heater, and it is indicated by the patent reference 2 The medium layer 3 may be divided and used for a subsegment using polymeric materials etc. The diameter of the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter being referred to as 0.1 micrometers or less etc. for example, the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter It may consider as the minute drop let which has a path smaller than the wavelength of light, and you may carry out by controlling dispersion of light using the liquid crystallinity compound in which it considers as a transparence condition or a transparent isotropic phase is shown at operating environment temperature (room temperature) etc. Dispersion of the diameter of the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter and light when the path (major axis) of a cluster is still smaller than 0.1 micrometers or less, i.e., the wavelength of light, (incident light wavelength) can be disregarded. For this reason, if the path of the above-mentioned cluster is 0.1 micrometers or less, for example, the above-mentioned cluster is also transparent to the light.

[0074]

In addition, the above-mentioned medium A is not limited to the matter to which it is indicated that the Pockels effect or the Kerr effect mentioned above. For this reason, the abovementioned medium A may have the order structure where the array of a molecule has the cubic symmetry of the scale below the wavelength of light (for example, nano-scale), and you may have the cubic phase (3-6 to nonpatent literature 8 reference) which looks isotropic optically. A cubic phase is the following structure expression (5), for example as liquid crystallinity matter in which it is one of the liquid crystal phases of the liquid crystallinity matter which can be used as the above-mentioned medium A, and a cubic phase is shown. [0075]

[Formula 2]

$$C_8H_{17}O$$
 O
 H
 O
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$

[0076]

It comes out and the BABH8 grade shown is mentioned. If electric field are impressed to such liquid crystallinity matter, distortion will be given to the fine structure and it will become possible to carry out induction of the optical modulation.

[0077]

[0078]

BABH8 shows the cubic phase which consists of order structure of having the cubic symmetry of the scale below the wavelength of light in a temperature requirement (136.7 degrees C or more and 161 degrees C or less). This BABH8 has the order structure below the wavelength of light, and a good black display can be performed to the bottom of a crossed Nicol in the above-mentioned temperature requirement by the optical isotropy being shown at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing.

If an electrical potential difference is impressed between electrodes 4–5 (Kushigata electrode) on the other hand, controlling the temperature of the above BABH8 using the heating means described above, for example at 136.7 degrees C or more and 161 degrees C or less, distortion will arise in the structure (order structure) of having cubic symmetric property. That is, in the above-mentioned temperature requirement, the above BABH8 is isotropic in the state of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and an anisotropy discovers it by electrical-potential-difference impression.

[0079]

Thereby, since a birefringence occurs in the above-mentioned medium layer 3, the above-mentioned display device can perform a good white display. In addition, the direction which a birefringence generates is fixed and the magnitude changes with electrical-potential-difference impression. moreover, the electrical-potential-difference permeability curve which shows the relation of the electrical potential difference and permeability which are impressed between electrodes 4–5 (Kushigata electrode) — a temperature requirement (136.7 degrees C or more and 161 degrees C or less), about 20 [i.e.,], — it becomes the curve stabilized in the large temperature requirement K. For this reason, when the above BABH8 is used as the abovementioned medium A, temperature control can be performed very easily. That is, since the medium layer 3 which consists of the above BABH8 is a stable phase thermally, rapid temperature dependence is not discovered and it is very easy temperature control. [0080]

Moreover, filled up with the aggregate in which the liquid crystal molecule carried out orientation to the radial in the size below the wavelength of light as the above-mentioned medium A. also realizing a system which looks isotropic optically — possible — liquid crystal and a particle dispersed system given in a liquid crystal micro emulsion and nonpatent literature 5 given [as the technique] in nonpatent literature 4 (the mixed stock which made the particle intermingled in a solvent (liquid crystal) —) It is also possible to apply hereafter the technique only described as a liquid crystal particle dispersed system. If electric field are impressed to these, it is possible for distortion to be given to the aggregate of radial orientation and to carry out induction of the optical modulation.

[0081]

In addition, each these liquid crystallinity matter may show liquid crystallinity alone, by mixing two or more matter, liquid crystallinity may be shown and other non-liquid crystallinity matter may be mixed in these matter. Furthermore, the matter of the macromolecule and a liquid crystal dispersed system which is indicated by nonpatent literature 1 is also applicable. Moreover, a gelling agent which is indicated by nonpatent literature 2 may be added. [0082]

Moreover, as the above-mentioned medium A, it is desirable to contain a polar molecule, for example, a nitrobenzene etc. is suitable as a medium A. In addition, a nitrobenzene is also a kind of the medium in which the Kerr effect is shown.

[0083]

Although an example of the gestalt of the matter which can be used for below as the above-mentioned medium A, or this matter is shown, this invention is not limited only to the following instantiation.

[0084]

[Smectic D phase (SmD)]

A smectic D phase (SmD) is one of the liquid crystal phases of the liquid crystallinity matter

which can be used as the above-mentioned medium A, it has three dimensional grating structure and the lattice constant is below the wavelength of light. For this reason, a smectic D phase shows isotropy optically.

[0085]

As liquid crystallinity matter in which a smectic D phase is shown, it is given in nonpatent literature 3 or nonpatent literature 8 general formula [following] (6) - (7), for example. [0086]

[Formula 3]

$$C_mH_{2m+1}O$$

$$O$$

$$OH$$

$$NO_2$$

$$OH$$

$$C_mH_{2m+1}O$$
 COOH \cdots (7)

[0087]

It comes out and the ANBC16 grade expressed is mentioned. in addition, above-mentioned general formula (6) - (7) -- setting -- m -- the integer of arbitration -- in a general formula (6), m= 15 is shown in m= 16 and a general formula (7), and, specifically, X shows two -NO(s). [0088]

In a 171.0 degrees C - 197.2 degrees C temperature requirement, a smectic D phase discovers the above ANBC16. If ANBC16 impresses electric field to ANBC16 in the above-mentioned temperature field which shows a smectic D phase, since a dielectric anisotropy exists in the molecule of ANBC16 itself, a molecule arises in the direction of electric field, and distortion arises in grids structure as the other side. That is, optical anisotropy is discovered to ANBC16. In addition, if it is the matter in which not only ANBC16 but a smectic D phase is shown, it is applicable as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation. [0089]

[Liquid crystal micro emulsion]

A liquid crystal micro emulsion is the generic name of the system (mixed stock) which permuted the oil child of an O/W mold micro emulsion (it is the system in which water was dissolved in the form of waterdrop with the surfactant, and an oil serves as a continuous phase into an oil) by the thermotropic liquid crystal molecule proposed in nonpatent literature 4.

[0090]

As an example of a liquid crystal micro emulsion, there is mixed stock of the pentyl cyano biphenyl (5CB) which is indicated by nonpatent literature 4 and which is the thermotropic liquid crystal in which a nematic liquid crystal phase is shown, and the water solution of the didodecyl ammonium star's picture (DDAB) which is the lyotropic (rye OTORO pick) liquid crystal in which an inverted micelle phase is shown, for example. This mixed stock has the structure expressed with a mimetic diagram as shown in drawing 8 and drawing 9. [0091]

Moreover, the diameter of reversed micelle is [the distance between about 50A and reversed micelle of this mixed stock] about 200A typically. These scales are smaller than the wavelength of light about single figure. Moreover, reversed micelle exists in the three-dimensions space

target at random, and 5CB(s) are carrying out orientation to the radial the core [each reversed micelle]. Therefore, this mixed stock shows isotropy optically. [0092]

And if electric field are impressed to the medium which consists of this mixed stock, since a dielectric anisotropy exists in 5CB, the molecule itself considers as the other side in the direction of electric field. That is, an orientation anisotropy is discovered in the system which were directions [target / optical] since orientation was carried out to the radial the core [reversed micelle], and optical anisotropy is discovered in it. In addition, not only at the above-mentioned mixed stock but at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, isotropy is shown optically, and if it is the liquid crystal micro emulsion which optical anisotropy discovers by electrical-potential-difference impression, it is applicable as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation. [0093]

[Lyotropic liquid crystal]

It seems that the main molecule which forms liquid crystal has melted into solvents (water, organic solvent, etc.) with other properties, and also lyotropic (rye OTORO pick) liquid crystal means the liquid crystal of a component system. Moreover, the above-mentioned specific phase is a phase which shows isotropy optically at the time of no electric-field impressing. As such a specific phase, there are a micell phase indicated by nonpatent literature 11, a sponge phase, a cubic phase, and an inverted micelle phase, for example. The classification Fig. of a lyotropic liquid crystal phase is shown in drawing 10. [0094]

There is matter which discovers a micell phase in the surfactant which is amphiphile. For example, a water solution of a sodium dodecyl sulfate, a water solution of a PAL thymine acid potassium, etc. which are an ionic surfactant form a spherical micell. Moreover, with the mixed liquor of the polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether and water which are a nonionic surfactant, when a nonylphenyl radical works as a hydrophobic group and an oxyethylene chain works as a hydrophilic group, a micell is formed. The water solution of a styrene-ethylene oxide block copolymer also forms a micell in others. [0095]

For example, a molecule carries out packing (a molecular assembly is formed) of the spherical micell to a spatial omnidirection, and it shows the shape of a ball. Moreover, since the size of a spherical micell is below the wavelength of light, it does not show an anisotropy but looks isotropic. However, if electric field are impressed to such a spherical micell, since a spherical micell is distorted, an anisotropy will be discovered. Therefore, the lyotropic liquid crystal which has a spherical micell phase is also applicable as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation. In addition, the same effectiveness can be acquired even if it uses the micell phase of not only a spherical micell phase but other configurations, i.e., a string-like micell phase, an ellipse-like micell phase, and cylindrical micell equality as a medium A. [0096]

Moreover, generally it is known that the reversed micelle which the hydrophilic group and the hydrophobic group replaced depending on concentration, temperature, and the conditions of a surfactant will be formed. Such reversed micelle shows the same effectiveness as a micell optically. Therefore, effectiveness equivalent to the case where a micell phase is used is done so by applying an inverted micelle phase as a medium A. In addition, the liquid crystal micro emulsion mentioned above is an example of a lyotropic liquid crystal which has an inverted micelle phase (reversed micelle structure). [0097]

Moreover, the concentration and the temperature field which show a sponge phase as shown in drawing 10, and a cubic phase exist in the water solution of the pentaethylene glycoldodecylether which is a nonionic surfactant. Since such a sponge phase and a cubic phase have the order below the wavelength of light, they are the transparent matter. That is, the medium which consists of these phases shows isotropy optically. And if an electrical potential difference is impressed to the medium which consists of these phases, orientation order will change and

optical anisotropy will be discovered. Therefore, the lyotropic liquid crystal which has a sponge phase and a cubic phase is also applicable as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation.

[0098]

[Liquid crystal particle dispersed system]

Moreover, Medium A may be the liquid crystal particle dispersed system which made the latex particle with a diameter of about 100A which embellished the front face with the sulfuric-acid radical in the water solution of nonionic surfactant pentaethylene glycol-dodecylether intermingled. Although a sponge phase is discovered in the above-mentioned liquid crystal particle dispersed system, you may be the liquid crystal particle dispersed system which discovers the micell phase mentioned above, a cubic phase, an inverted micelle phase, etc. as a medium A used in the gestalt of this operation. In addition, the same oriented structure as the liquid crystal micro emulsion mentioned above can also be acquired by replacing with the above-mentioned latex particle and using said DDAB.

[0099]

[DIN DORIMA]

DIN DORIMA is the high branched polymer of the shape of three dimensions which has branching for every monomeric unit. Since DIN DORIMA has much branching, if it becomes the above molecular weight to some extent, it will serve as spherical structure. Since this spherical structure has the order below the wavelength of light, it is the transparent matter, by electrical-potential-difference impression, orientation order changes and optical anisotropy discovers it. Therefore, DIN DORIMA is also applicable as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation. Moreover, the same oriented structure as the liquid crystal micro emulsion mentioned above can be acquired by replacing with DDAB in the liquid crystal micro emulsion mentioned above, and using above-mentioned DIN DORIMA. Thus, the obtained medium is also applicable as the above-mentioned medium A. [0100]

[Cholesteric blue phase]

The cholesteric blue phase forms periodic structure in [a screw axis] three dimension, and it is known that the structure has high symmetric property (for example, 6-nonpatent literature 7 reference). Since the cholesteric blue phase has the order below the wavelength of light, it is the almost transparent matter, by electrical-potential-difference impression, orientation order changes and optical anisotropy discovers it. That is, in order that a cholesteric blue phase may show isotropy in general optically and a liquid crystal molecule may make it the other side in the direction of electric field by electric-field impression, a grid discovers distortion and an anisotropy.

[0101]

In addition, as matter in which a cholesteric blue phase is shown, the constituent which mixes "5CB" (a 4-cyano-4'-pentyl biphenyl, nematic liquid crystal) 47.4% of the weight, and comes to mix "ZLI-4572" (a trade name, chiral dopant by Merck Co.) at 4.4% of the weight of a rate is known 48.2% of the weight in "JC1041" (a trade name, liquid crystal mixture by Chisso Corp.), for example. This constituent shows a cholesteric blue phase in the temperature requirement of 330.7K to 331.8K.

[0102]

[Smectic blue phase]

Since a smectic blue (BPSm) phase has the structure of high symmetric property (for example, refer to nonpatent literature 7 and nonpatent literature 10 grade) and has the order below the wavelength of light like the KOSUTE rucksack blue phase, it is the almost transparent matter, by electrical-potential-difference impression, orientation order changes and optical anisotropy discovers it. That is, in order that a smectic blue phase may show isotropy in general optically and a liquid crystal molecule may make it the other side in the direction of electric field by electric-field impression, a grid discovers distortion and an anisotropy.

In addition, as matter in which a smectic blue phase is shown, FH/FH/HH-14BTMHC indicated

by nonpatent literature 10 is mentioned, for example. By 74.4 degrees C - 73.2 degrees C, this matter shows BPSm2 phase at a BPSm three phase circuit and 73.2 degrees C - 72.3 degrees C, and shows a BPSm plane 1 at 72.3 degrees C - 72.1 degrees C. Since a BPSm phase has the structure of high symmetric property as shown in nonpatent literature 7, the optical isotropy is shown in general. Moreover, if electric field are impressed to matter FH/FH/HH-14BTMHC, when a liquid crystal molecule considers as the other side in the direction of electric field, as for distortion and this matter, a grid will discover an anisotropy. Therefore, this matter can be used as a medium A of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation. [0104]

As mentioned above, the matter which can be used as a medium A in the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation If only optical anisotropy (whenever [refractive-index and orientation order]) changes with impression of electric field You may be the matter in which the Pockels effect or the Kerr effect is shown. A cubic phase, You may be the lyotropic liquid crystal or liquid crystal particle dispersed system which may consist of a molecule in which it is shown any of a smectic D phase, a cholesteric blue phase, and a smectic blue phase they are, and shows any of a micell phase, an inverted micelle phase, a sponge phase, and a cubic phase. Moreover, the above-mentioned medium A may be a liquid crystal micro emulsion, DIN DORIMA (DIN DORIMA molecule) and an amphipatic molecule, a copolymer, or polar molecules other than the above.

[0105]

Moreover, as for the above-mentioned medium, it is desirable to have the order structure below the wavelength of light (orientation order) not only at the liquid crystallinity matter but at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression or no electrical-potential-difference impressing. If order structure is below the wavelength of light, isotropy is shown optically. Therefore, the display condition at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression can certainly be changed by using the medium by which order structure becomes below the wavelength of light at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression or no electrical-potential-difference impressing. [0106]

Although the pentyl cyano biphenyl (5CB) shown with said structure expression (1) shall be hereafter used as the above-mentioned medium A with the gestalt of this operation, as the above-mentioned medium A, it is not limited to this, and it can replace with the above-mentioned 5CB, and the various matter mentioned above can be applied.
[0107]

According to the gestalt of this operation, ITO is used as the above-mentioned electrode 4-5. The line breadth of 5 micrometers, Thickness (namely, distance between substrates 1-2) of the inter-electrode distance of 5 micrometers and the medium layer 3 is set to 10 micrometers, as Medium A — 5CB(s) — using it — the exterior — warming — permeability was able to be changed by equipment's (heating means') maintaining the above-mentioned 5CB at the temperature near right above [of a nematic isotropic phase / phase transition] (temperature slightly higher than phase transition temperature, for example, +0.1K), and performing electrical-potential-difference impression. In addition, the above-mentioned 5CB shows an isotropic phase at a nematic phase and the temperature beyond it with the temperature of less than 33.3 degrees C.

[0108]

Next, the display principle in the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation is explained below with reference to $\underline{\text{drawing 1}}$ (a) –(b) $\underline{\text{drawing 4}}$ (a) – (b), $\underline{\text{drawing 6}}$, and $\underline{\text{drawing 7}}$ (a) – (g).

[0109]

In addition, although the case where mainly use the display device of a transparency mold as the above-mentioned display device in the following explanation, and the method of ** and the matter which is a method of ** suitably and optical anisotropy discovers by electric-field impression are used mostly optically at the time of no electric-field impressing shall be mentioned as an example and it shall explain, this invention is not limited to this.

[0110]

Drawing 4 (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation in electric—field the condition of not impressing (OFF condition), and drawing 4 (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above—mentioned display device in an electrical—potential—difference impression condition (ON condition). In addition, the configuration in 1 pixel [in / in drawing 4 (a) – (b) / the above—mentioned display device] shall be shown, and illustration is omitted about the configuration of the expedient top of explanation, and the opposite substrate 12. in addition, as the above—mentioned electrode 4–5, it was shown in drawing 3 — as — the Kushigata electrode — you may be — the above—mentioned substrate 1–2 — abbreviation — if there are even some which can impress parallel electric field, it will not be limited especially. Moreover, an arrow head shows a polarizing plate absorption shaft among drawing.

[0111]

Drawing 6 is a graph which shows the relation of the applied voltage and the permeability in the display device shown in drawing 1 (a) - (b). Furthermore, drawing 7 (a) - (g) The difference in the display principle of the display device which displays using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field, and the conventional liquid crystal display component it is the sectional view typically shown in the configuration (the configuration of the cut end of an index ellipsoid shows) and its direction of a main shaft of an average index ellipsoid of the medium at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression (OFF condition) (ON condition). Drawing 7 (a) The sectional view at the time (OFF condition) of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the display device as which - (g) displays it on order using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field], The sectional view at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of this display device (ON condition), the sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of TN (Twisted Nematic) method], The sectional view at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the liquid crystal display component of this TN method, the sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of VA (Vertical Alignment) method], The sectional view at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the liquid crystal display component of this VA method, the sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of an IPS (In Plane Switching) method], and the sectional view at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the liquid crystal display component of this IPS method are shown. [0112]

Generally, the refractive index in the matter is not isotropic and changes with directions. the direction (substrate side inboard) where the anisotropy of this refractive index is parallel to a substrate side — and the opposite direction of two electrodes 4–5, a direction (the direction of a substrate normal) perpendicular to a substrate side, and a direction (substrate side inboard) parallel to a substrate side — and — if a direction perpendicular to the opposite direction of two electrodes 4–5 is made into x, y, and the direction of z, respectively — the rectangular coordinate system (X1, X2, X3) of arbitration — using — the following relational expression (1) [0113]

[Equation 1]

$$\sum_{ij}^{1} \left(\frac{1}{n_{ij}^{2}}\right) X_{i} X_{j} = 1 \qquad \cdots (1)$$

[0114]

 $(2 \eta j = n j, i, j = 1, 3)$

It comes out and is shown by the ellipsoid (index ellipsoid) expressed (for example, nonpatent literature 12 reference). Here, when the above-mentioned relational expression (1) is rewritten

using the system of coordinates (Y1, Y2, Y3) of the direction of a main shaft of an ellipsoid, it is the following relational expression (2).

[0115] [Equation 2]

$$\frac{{Y_1}^2}{{n_1}^2} + \frac{{Y_2}^2}{{n_2}^2} + \frac{{Y_3}^3}{{n_3}^3} = 1 \qquad \cdots (2)$$

[0116]

It is come out and shown. n1, n2, and n3 (it is hereafter described as nx, ny, and nz) are called the principal indices of refraction, and they are equivalent to the one half of the die length of three main shafts in an ellipsoid. Considering the light wave which advances in the direction perpendicular to the field of Y3=0 from a zero, this light wave has a polarization component in the direction of Y1 and Y2, and the refractive indexes of each component are nx and ny, respectively, the light which generally advances in the direction of arbitration — receiving — a zero — a passage — a field perpendicular to the travelling direction of a light wave — an index ellipsoid — it is considered a cut end, and the direction of a main shaft of this ellipse is the direction of a component of polarization of a light wave, and the one half of the die length of a main shaft is equivalent to the refractive index of that direction.

[0117]

First, about the difference of a display principle with the display device which displays using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field, and the conventional liquid crystal display component, as a conventional liquid crystal display component, TN method, VA method, and an IPS method are held for an example, and are explained.
[0118]

Drawing 7 (c) As shown in - (d), the liquid crystal display component of TN method The liquid crystal layer 105 is pinched between the substrates 101.102 of the pair by which opposite arrangement was carried out. Although it has the configuration in which the transparent electrode 103-104 (electrode) is formed on both the above-mentioned substrates 101-102, respectively, and the direction of a major axis of the liquid crystal molecule in the liquid crystal layer 105 is twisted spirally and orientation is carried out at the time of no electrical-potentialdifference impressing At the time of electrical-potential-difference impression, the direction of a major axis of the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule carries out orientation along the direction of electric field. In this case, as are shown in drawing 7 (c) at the time of no electricalpotential-difference impressing, and average index ellipsoid 105a which can be set turns to the direction (substrate side inboard) where that direction of a main shaft (the direction of a major axis) is parallel to a substrate side and shows it to drawing 7 (d) at the time of electricalpotential-difference impression, that direction of a main shaft turns to the direction of a substrate side normal. That is, the direction of a main shaft changes in the time of no electricalpotential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression, without the configuration of index ellipsoid 105a changing (index ellipsoid 105a rotates). [0119]

As shown in – (f), as for the liquid crystal display component of VA method, the liquid crystal layer 205 is pinched between the <u>drawing 7</u> (e) substrates 201.202 of the pair by which opposite arrangement was carried out. the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule [in / it has the configuration equipped with the transparent electrode (electrode) 203–204 on both the above-mentioned substrates 201–202, respectively, and / in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing / the liquid crystal layer 205] — a substrate side — receiving — abbreviation, although orientation is carried out in the perpendicular direction At the time of electrical-potential-difference impression, the direction of a major axis of the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule carries out orientation in the direction perpendicular to electric field. In this case, at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, average index ellipsoid

205a which can be set turns to the direction (substrate side inboard) where that direction of a main shaft is parallel to a substrate side at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression, as are shown in drawing 7 (e), and that direction of a main shaft (the direction of a major axis) turns to the direction of a substrate side normal and shows drawing 7 (f). That is, in the case of the liquid crystal display component of VA method as well as the liquid crystal display component of TN method, the direction of a main shaft changes in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression, without the configuration of index ellipsoid 205a changing (index ellipsoid 205a rotates).

Moreover, as the liquid crystal display component of an IPS method is shown in drawing 7 (f) — (g) By an electrical potential difference being impressed to the liquid crystal layer by which one pair of electrodes 302–303 were pinched between the opposite substrates which have the configuration by which opposite arrangement was carried out and are not illustrated with the above-mentioned electrode 302–303 on the same substrate 301 The direction of orientation of the liquid crystal molecule in the above-mentioned liquid crystal layer (the direction of a main shaft of index ellipsoid 305a (the direction of a major axis)) can be changed, and a display condition which is different in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression can be realized now. That is, the direction of a main shaft changes in the time of the electrical-potential-difference impression which is shown at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [which is shown like the liquid crystal display component of TN method and VA method at drawing 7 (f)], and drawing 7 (g) also in the case of the liquid crystal display component of an IPS method, without the configuration of index ellipsoid 305a changing (index ellipsoid 305a rotates).

Thus, the liquid crystal molecule is carrying out orientation in a certain direction also in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and it is expressing as the conventional liquid crystal display component by changing the direction of orientation by impressing an electrical potential difference (modulation of permeability). That is, although the configuration of an index ellipsoid does not change, it shows using the direction of a main shaft of an index ellipsoid rotating by electrical-potential-difference impression (change). That is, whenever [orientation order / of a liquid crystal molecule] is fixed, and expresses as the conventional liquid crystal display component by changing the direction of orientation (modulation of permeability). [0122]

On the other hand, the display devices also including the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation which display using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field Drawing 7 (a) As shown in – (b), the configurations of index ellipsoid 3a at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing are directions [globular shape /, i.e., an optical target etc.,] (whenever [nx=ny=nz and orientation order] = 0), and an anisotropy (nx>ny and orientation order whenever > 0) discovers them by impressing an electrical potential difference. in addition, the above nx, ny, and nz — a direction (substrate side inboard) respectively parallel to a substrate side — and a direction (substrate side inboard) parallel to the principal indices of refraction of the opposite direction of two electrodes 4–5, the principal indices of refraction of a direction (the direction of a substrate normal) perpendicular to a substrate side, and a substrate side — and the principal indices of refraction of a direction perpendicular to the opposite direction of two electrodes 4–5 are expressed.

Thus, the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation displays, when the direction of optical anisotropy modulates for example, whenever [orientation order] by regularity (the electrical-potential-difference impression direction does not change), and display principles differ greatly as the conventional liquid crystal display component.

As shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (a), since the medium A (medium layer 3) enclosed between substrate 1 and 2 shows an isotropic phase and serves as a method of ** also optically, the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation becomes a black display in the condition of not

impressing the electrical potential difference to an electrode 4 and 5. [0125]

On the other hand, since orientation will be carried out so that each molecule 10 of the above-mentioned medium A may meet the electric field by which the direction of a major axis is formed between the above-mentioned electrode 4 and 5 if an electrical potential difference is impressed to an electrode 4 and 5 as shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (b), a birefringence phenomenon is discovered. According to this birefringence phenomenon, the permeability of a display device can be modulated according to the electrical potential difference between electrodes 4-5. [0126]

In addition, although an electrical potential difference required in order to modulate the permeability of a display device in temperature sufficiently far from phase transition temperature (transition point) becomes large, immediately, at temperature right above, it is an electrical potential difference before and behind 0 – 100V, and the thing of the transition point for which permeability is fully modulated becomes possible.

[0127]

For example, when the refractive index of the direction of electric field and the refractive index of a direction perpendicular to the direction of electric field are made into n//and n**, respectively according to nonpatent literature 9 and nonpatent literature 12, the relation between birefringence change (deltan=n//-n**), and the external electric field (V/m) E, i.e., electric field, is the following relational expression (3).

delta n=lambda-Bk-E 2 -- (3)

It is come out and expressed. In addition, lambda is [a Kerr constant (m/V2) and E of the wavelength (m) of the incident light in the inside of a vacuum and Bk] impression field strength (V/m).

[0128]

Though decreasing with the function proportional to 1/(T-Tni) is known with the rise of temperature (T) and Kerr constant B can be driven with weak field strength near the transition point (Tni), while temperature (T) rises, rapidly required field strength increases. for this reason – although an electrical potential difference required in order to modulate permeability becomes large at temperature (temperature higher enough than the transition point) sufficiently far from the transition point — the temperature of phase transition right above — about 100 — permeability can fully be modulated on V or less electrical potential difference.

[0129]

However, when displaying by modulating whenever [orientation order] as a result of the invention-in-this-application person's examination, it turned out that contrast may fall depending on the case.

[0130]

According to an invention-in-this-application person's etc. examination, the following two factors are mentioned as a factor to which contrast falls.

[0131]

When a power source is first supplied to one in the display equipped with the conventional display device or this conventional ****** which used for the display medium the medium A which optical anisotropy discovers by impression of electric field, and ambient temperature is low, the above-mentioned medium A does not reach the temperature which should be driven essentially, but it is mentioned that the physical condition of Medium A may differ from the condition that it should have essentially at the time of a component drive. For example, when the above-mentioned medium A must drive essentially in the state of the isotropic phase of the phase-transition-temperature right above of a nematic-isotropic phase, it may be a low-temperature nematic state from the above-mentioned phase transition temperature at the power up. In this case, non-electric-field impression also has optical anisotropy, and if nematic, light is made penetrated by that optical anisotropy, when isotropic state must attain a black display essentially in the state of no electric-field impressing. Therefore, a good black display becomes impossible to such a case, and contrast will fall to it. Of course, although a display device can be overheated according to a heater or the light source (back light) and a good display can be

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obtained, it is not easy to raise temperature and to stabilize it in an instant. [0132]

It is mentioned that there is a case where it becomes impossible to realize an optically isotropic condition since another will be firmly adsorbed in the molecule 10 which constitutes Medium A from a substrate interface, especially substrate 1 interface with a substrate 1 even if the above-mentioned medium A (display medium) has realized the optically isotropic condition in the field distant from the substrate interface. For example, when making it drive at the temperature of phase-transition-temperature right above 0.1K of a nematic-isotropic phase, near the substrate interface is a nematic state.

[0133]

Anyway, near a substrate interface, there is a problem which differs from the bulk field where the physical condition of the above-mentioned medium A separated from the substrate interface in the interior of a cel unlike the condition that it should have essentially at the time of a component drive by the absorption phenomenon that the phenomenon which light penetrates by the medium A near the substrate interface at the time of a black display will occur, consequently contrast will fall.

[0134]

The point that a nematic liquid crystal phase deposits at the temperature of under the transition point also by the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation is the same as that of the above-mentioned conventional display device. However, according to the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, ambient temperature is lower than the above-mentioned transition point to a power up, for example. When Medium A has not reached the temperature which should be driven essentially, the nematic liquid crystal phase which deposited The direction of orientation (processing) in the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9, and in order [as shown in drawing 5 ,] to carry out orientation to polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations (an arrow head shows among drawing) in this case, there is no optical contribution by the above-mentioned nematic liquid crystal phase, i.e., the medium by which physical condition differs from the condition at the time of an original drive. Consequently, it was also able to set, by the time the temperature of a display device rose with the heater and the back light, and the good black display was able to be realized.

[0135]

Namely, even if an optical anisotropy is discovered at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing according to the gestalt of this operation Level orientation processing of the direction which is parallel or intersects perpendicularly with one polarizing plate absorption shaft is performed to the mutual opposite front face in the above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 2. The optical contribution can be vanished by carrying out in the direction which is parallel or intersects perpendicularly with the above-mentioned polarizing plate absorption shaft, the direction of orientation, i.e., direction, of the optical anisotropy. That is, in the gestalt of this operation, by level orientation processing being performed to the mutual opposed face front face in the above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12, Medium A and the molecule 10 which constitutes this medium A strictly of a substrate interface are the temperature of under component drive temperature, and carries out orientation along the direction of orientation (processing) in the above-mentioned orientation processing. [0136]

Moreover, according to the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, even if it arrived at the desired drive temperature field, the leakage of the light at the time of the black display by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was not observed, but was able to realize high contrast. Consequently, the display device which contrast did not fall and was excellent in high-speed responsibility and an angle-of-visibility property was able to be obtained.

[0137]

In addition, although it is desirable that they are a rectangular cross, parallel, or anti-parallel as for the mutual direction of rubbing in the above-mentioned substrate 1-2 as described above, it is more desirably at parallel or the time of anti-parallel. While performing level orientation

processing to both the above-mentioned substrates 1-2, by considering the mutual direction of level orientation as parallel or anti-parallel, contrast could be maximized, consequently black brightness was able to be made smaller.

[0138]

In addition, with the gestalt of this operation, although rubbing processing was performed in the formation list of the orientation film 8–9 to both the substrates 1–2 (the pixel substrate 11 and opposite substrate 12), the above-mentioned effectiveness can be acquired, even if it is the case where rubbing processing is performed only to one substrate. In this case, it is got blocked when the above-mentioned orientation film 8–9 is formed in both the substrates 1–2. Although the effectiveness of a like is not acquired when orientation processing is performed to both the substrates 1–2, if the orientation film (orientation film 9) is formed only in the substrate 2 of the opposite side in the substrate 1 in which the electrode 4–5 was formed A practical merit is large, without the voltage drop originating in the orientation film 8 by the side of a substrate 1 not occurring, but the driver voltage of a component going up. Moreover, even if it became desired drive temperature, it did not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was able to acquire high contrast. Moreover, even if it became desired drive temperature, it did not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was able to acquire high contrast.

[0139]

On the other hand, for the comparison, as shown in <u>drawing 11</u> (a) – (b), the orientation film 8 and 9 were not formed but the leakage of the light at the time of a black display when ambient temperature is lower than the above-mentioned transition point, until the temperature of a display device rises to a power up was investigated using the display device which has the same configuration as the above-mentioned gestalt of this operation except not performing orientation processing.

[0140]

<u>Drawing 11</u> (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for a comparison in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing (OFF condition), and <u>drawing 11</u> (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for a comparison in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition (ON condition). Moreover, <u>drawing 12</u> (a) is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for a comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature, and <u>drawing 12</u> (b) is the explanatory view showing the relation of the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the display device shown in <u>drawing 12</u> (a).

When not performing orientation processing, as shown in <u>drawing 12</u> (a), orientation of the nematic liquid crystal phase in which it deposited at the time of low temperature is carried out at random, and the direction of orientation of this depositing molecule 10 of a nematic liquid crystal phase will turn to all the directions of substrate side inboard, i.e., a direction parallel to a substrate side. consequently, warming generate optical leakage and according to a back light and a heater — even if not electrical-potential-difference impressed, the rise of big black brightness was generated until it sometimes became desired drive temperature. Moreover, since the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface occurred even if it became desired drive temperature, high contrast was not able to be acquired.

In addition, in order to increase the Kerr effect in said patent reference 1, while the lateral surface of a substrate and mutual absorption shaft orientations are parallel or cross a polarizing plate at right angles, arranging so that the include angle of 45 degrees may be made with the direction of rubbing is indicated by it. However, by this configuration, the optical contribution by the medium by which physical condition differs from the condition at the time of an original drive was not able to be vanished, a good black display could not be obtained, and high contrast was not able to be acquired, either. When the time of white and 0V impression was made into black for the time of 50V impression in deltaT=0.1K, specifically, according to this invention, only 200

or less contrast was acquired with the configuration of the patent reference 1 to 500 or more contrast being acquired. In addition, contrast can be easily measured by "EZContrast" made from for example, ELDIM (France). Therefore, the above-mentioned result shows that said effectiveness can be acquired because polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations and the orientation processing direction on the front face of a substrate have specific relation in the display device which displays when the direction of optical anisotropy modulates for example, whenever [orientation order] by regularity (the electrical-potential-difference impression direction does not change).

[0143]

In addition, although the display device of a transparency mold was mentioned as the example and the gestalt of this operation mainly explained it, this invention is not limited to this and is good also as a display device of a reflective mold.

[0144]

An example of the outline configuration of the display device of the reflective mold concerning the gestalt of this operation which applied this invention to <u>drawing 13</u> is shown.

[0145]

The display device of the above-mentioned reflective mold has the configuration with which the electrodes 4-5 (for example, Kushigata electrode), such as ITO, are formed through the insulating layer 22 on this reflecting layer 21 if needed while while consists of a glass substrate etc. and the pixel substrate 11 forms a reflecting layer 21 on a substrate 1. In addition, it is as having described above about other configurations. As the above-mentioned insulating layer 22, inorganic film; such as organic film; silicon nitride, such as acrylic resin, and silicon oxide, is applicable. Moreover, as the above-mentioned reflecting layer 21, aluminum, a silver thin film, etc. are applicable. In the above-mentioned configuration, since the light which has carried out incidence from the substrate 2 of another side where a reflecting layer 21 consists of transparence substrates, such as a glass substrate, can be reflected, it functions as a display device of a reflective mold.

[0146]

In addition, when using the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation as a display device of a reflective mold, various, conventionally well-known ingredients can be used as electrode materials, such as metal-electrode ingredients, such as aluminum, besides transparent electrode ingredients, such as ITO, like [in the case of using as a display device of a transparency mold] as the above-mentioned electrode 4-5. Moreover, especially line breadth, inter-electrode distance (electrode spacing), etc. of an electrode 4-5 are not limited, and it can be set as arbitration according to the gap between a substrate 1 and a substrate 2 etc. [0147]

Furthermore, although the case where a glass substrate was used was mentioned as the example and the gestalt of this operation explained it as the above-mentioned substrate 1-2, this invention is not limited to this and can use various well-known substrates conventionally that at least one side should just be a transparent substrate among substrates 1-2.

[0148]

In addition, it is not what is limited to what is conventionally used as a substrate as the above-mentioned substrate 1-2. For example, if you may be a film-like and you may have flexibility, and at least one side is transparent and can hold the above-mentioned medium A to between substrates (i.e., the interior) (pinching) Various ingredients can be used according to the class of medium A, the condition of a phase, etc.

[0149]

Moreover, although it was a method of ** optically, and the case where the matter which optical anisotropy discovers by electric—field impression was used was mentioned as the example and explained as a medium A as an example with the gestalt of this operation at the time of no electric—field impressing, this invention is not limited to this and the above—mentioned medium A is as having mentioned above that you could be the matter in which an anisotropy disappears by electric—field impression and isotropy is shown optically.

[0150]

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An anisotropy disappears to below by electric—field impression as the above—mentioned medium A, and the example using the matter in which isotropy is shown optically is shown in it. [0151]

In this example, between two transparent substrates 1–2 which consist of glass substrates, while forming the transparent electrode 4–5 and the orientation film which consists of polyimide which becomes an opposed face with the substrate 2 in one substrate 1 from ITO Among both the substrates 1–2, the 4'-n-alkoxy-3'-nitro biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (ANBC-22) which is the transparent dielectric matter as a medium A was enclosed. Moreover, by sprinkling the plastics bead beforehand to the opposed face of the above-mentioned substrate 1–2, the thickness of the medium layer 3 in the above-mentioned display device was adjusted so that it might be set to 4 micrometers. In addition, the Kushigata electrode as shown in drawing 3 was used for the above-mentioned electrode 4–5.

[0152]

In addition, the polarizing plate 6-7 was formed in the outside (opposite side of an opposed face) of a substrate 1-2, respectively so that the include angle whose electrode expanding direction of absorption shaft 6a and 7a in each polarizing plate 6-7, and ctenidium partial 4a and 5a in the electrode 4-5 which is the Kushigata electrode is about 45 degrees might be made, while mutual absorption shaft 6a and 7a intersected perpendicularly, as described above. [0153]

thus, the obtained display device — the exterior — warming — permeability was able to be changed, when it maintained at the temperature near the phase transition of a smectic C phase-cubic phase to about 10K the low temperature side of phase transition temperature — and electrical-potential-difference impression (about [50V] alternating current electric field (it is hundreds of kHz more greatly than 0)) was performed with equipment (heating means). That is, it was able to be made to change to an isotropic cubic phase (dark condition) by impressing an electrical potential difference to the smectic C phase (bright state) which shows optical anisotropy at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing.

[0154] Moreo

Moreover, even if it prepares an electrode in a substrate 1-2, respectively and made it generate the electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal, the almost same result was obtained. That is, the result with the direction of electric field almost same not only in a substrate side horizontal direction but the direction of a substrate side normal was obtained. [0155]

Thus, the medium in which it has optical anisotropy at the time of no electric—field impressing, optical anisotropy disappears by electric—field impression as a medium A used for the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, and the optical isotropy is shown may be used. [0156]

According to the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, the leakage of the light at the time of the black display by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was not observed, but was able to realize high contrast. Consequently, the display device which contrast did not fall and was excellent in high-speed responsibility and an angle-of-visibility property was able to be obtained.

[0157]

That is, even if it can vanish the optical anisotropy of the medium A of a bulk field by electric—field impression, the adsorption power of the molecule 10 (medium A) which stuck to the substrate interface is large, and it is not easy to vanish the anisotropy by electric—field impression. However, according to the configuration of this invention, it is effective in losing the optical contribution by the optical anisotropy near [this] the substrate interface, and for this reason, high contrast was able to be acquired as described above.

[0158]

Moreover, the above-mentioned medium A may have a forward dielectric anisotropy, and may have a negative dielectric anisotropy. When the medium which has a forward dielectric constant anisotropy as a medium A is used, it is necessary to drive in electric field in general parallel to a substrate 1-2 but, and it is not the limitation when the medium which has a negative dielectric

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anisotropy is applied. For example, what is necessary is to be able to drive to a substrate 1-2 also by slanting electric field, to be able to drive to it also by perpendicular electric field, and just to change suitably the configuration, the quality of the material, and the arrangement location of an electrode into it in this case. In addition, if electric field are perpendicularly impressed using a transparent electrode, it is advantageous in respect of a numerical aperture.

[0159]

[The gestalt 2 of operation]

It will be as follows if other gestalten of operation of this invention are explained based on drawing 14 (a) – (c) thru/or drawing 16. In addition, with the gestalt of this operation, the same number is given to the component which should explain about difference with the gestalt 1 of said operation, and was mainly used with the gestalt 1 of said operation, and the component which has the same function, and the explanation is omitted.

[0160]

Although the case where level orientation processing which is parallel or intersects perpendicularly with a polarizing plate absorption shaft was carried out to orientation processing of the front face of the opposite substrate 12 was mentioned as the example and the gestalt 1 of said operation explained it to the pixel substrate 11 list, with the gestalt of this operation, the case where perpendicular orientation is performed shall be mentioned as an example as the above—mentioned orientation processing, and it shall explain below.

[0161]

Drawing 14 (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation in electric—field the condition do not impress (OFF condition), drawing 14 (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above—mentioned display device in an electrical—potential—difference impression condition (ON condition), and drawing 14 (c) is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above—mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing. Moreover, drawing 15 is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the above—mentioned display device in the temperature of under drive temperature, and drawing 16 is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for a comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature.

[0162]

The configuration of the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation is the same as that of a display device given in the gestalt 1 of said operation fundamentally, if the direction of the orientation film 8 and the orientation processing in 9 is removed as shown for example, in drawing 14 (a) - (c). In order that according to the gestalt of this operation the depositing molecule 10 of a nematic liquid crystal phase may carry out orientation in the direction of a substrate normal which is the direction of orientation (processing) by performing perpendicular orientation processing to the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 as shown in drawing 15 although a nematic liquid crystal phase deposits in a power up when an ambient temperature is lower than the transition point of the above-mentioned medium A, there is no optical contribution. That is, even if an optical anisotropy is discovered by performing orientation processing which realizes perpendicular orientation at the time of no electrical-potentialdifference impressing according to the display device concerning the gestalt of this operation, optical contribution can be vanished by making the direction of the optical anisotropy become perpendicular to a substrate side. Also in the gestalt of this operation, by that is, the thing for which perpendicular orientation processing is performed to the mutual opposed face front face in the above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12 Medium A and the molecule 10 which constitutes this medium A strictly of a substrate interface It becomes possible to also set, by the time the temperature of a display device rises with a heater and a back light, and to realize a good black display by carrying out orientation along the direction of orientation in the above-mentioned orientation processing at the temperature of under component drive temperature. Moreover, even if attained to the drive temperature field, the leakage of the light at the time of a black display was not observed, but was able to realize high

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contrast. Moreover, even if it became desired drive temperature, it did not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was able to acquire high contrast.

[0163]

That is, even when perpendicular processing was performed as the above-mentioned orientation processing, as shown in the gestalt 1 of said operation, since it did not generate, the optical leakage by the nematic liquid crystal phase which has deposited at the time of low temperature, and the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was able to raise contrast.

[0164]

On the other hand, when not performing orientation processing, as shown in <u>drawing 16</u>, orientation of the nematic liquid crystal phase in which it deposited at the time of low temperature is carried out at random, and the direction of orientation of this depositing molecule 10 of a nematic liquid crystal phase will turn to all the directions of substrate side inboard, i.e., a direction parallel to a substrate side.

[0165]

consequently, warming generate optical leakage and according to a back light and a heater—even if not electrical-potential-difference impressed, the rise of big black brightness was generated until it sometimes became desired drive temperature. Moreover, since the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface occurred even if it became desired drive temperature, high contrast was not able to be acquired.

[0166]

The above result shows that said effectiveness can be acquired because polarizing plate absorption shaft orientations and the orientation processing direction on the front face of a substrate have specific relation also in the gestalt of this operation by the display device which displays when the direction of optical anisotropy modulates for example, whenever [orientation order] by regularity (the electrical-potential-difference impression direction does not change). [0167]

In addition, although rubbing processing was performed in the formation list of the orientation film 8–9 also with the gestalt of this operation to both the substrates 1–2 (the pixel substrate 11 and opposite substrate 12), the above-mentioned effectiveness can be acquired even if it is the case where rubbing processing is performed only to one substrate. Also in this case, it is got blocked when the above-mentioned orientation film 8–9 is formed in both the substrates 1–2. Although the effectiveness of a like is not acquired when orientation processing is performed to both the substrates 1–2, if the orientation film (orientation film 9) is formed only in the substrate 2 of the opposite side in the substrate 1 in which the electrode 4–5 was formed A practical merit is large, without the voltage drop originating in the orientation film 8 not occurring, but the driver voltage of a component going up. Moreover, even if it became desired drive temperature, it did not generate but the optical leakage by the molecule which stuck to the substrate interface was able to acquire high contrast.

[0168]

Although various things can be used as the above-mentioned perpendicular orientation film used with the gestalt of this operation and polyimide, a silane coupling agent, lecithin, etc. are mentioned, it is not limited especially.

[0169]

What is necessary is just to perform rubbing processing, after applying these ingredients and forming the orientation film for example, on a substrate 1 and/or a substrate 2 in using polyimide etc. as the above-mentioned perpendicular orientation film. Moreover, what is necessary is just to create by the Czochralski method like LB film, in using a silane coupling agent. [0170]

Moreover, the commercial perpendicular orientation film can be used as the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9.

[0171]

Furthermore, also in the gestalt of this operation, as the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9, since the orientation control is easy, the orientation film which has said optical functional group

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may be used. Also in the gestalt of this operation, when the above-mentioned orientation film 8-9 has an optical functional group, desired orientation processing can be easily performed by performing a polarization ultraviolet radiation exposure on above-mentioned pixel substrate 11 and opposite substrate 12 front face, i.e., the 8-orientation film 9 above-mentioned front face, and making orientation restraining force discover.

in addition — the gestalt 1–2 of the above-mentioned implementation — mainly — a substrate — abbreviation — although the case where parallel electric field were impressed was mentioned as the example and explained, the display device concerning this invention can be driven also by perpendicular electric field that it can drive also by slanting electric field to a substrate. In this case, what is necessary is just to impress electric field to the medium layer 3 by impressing electric field to inter-electrode [with which equipped the both sides of the substrate (substrates 1 and 2) of the pair which counters with the electrode, and both substrates were equipped]. [0173]

Moreover, although the case where orientation processing [which / of said level orientation processing or perpendicular orientation processing] was performed to both the substrates of the pixel substrate 11 and the opposite substrate 12 or one of substrates was mentioned as the example and the gestalt 1-2 of the above-mentioned implementation explained it Although orientation of the molecule 10 in a substrate interface is carried out in the above mentioned orientation processing direction (the direction of rubbing), the intermolecular interaction In order not to reach the bulk field distant from the substrate interface inside a cel and not to change the direction of orientation of the molecule 10 of this bulk field, level orientation processing is performed to one substrate, and the substrate of another side is not cared about as a configuration to which perpendicular orientation processing is performed.

[0174]

In addition, this invention is not limited to each operation gestalt mentioned above, and various modification is possible for it in the range shown in the claim, and it is contained in the technical range of this invention also about the operation gestalt acquired by different operation gestalt, combining suitably the technical means indicated, respectively.

[Availability on industry]

[0175]

[0172]

The display device of this invention is a display device excellent in the wide-field-of-view angle property and the high-speed response characteristic, for example, can be widely applied to the image display device with which information terminals, such as OA equipment, such as image display devices, such as television and a monitor, a word processor, and a personal computer, or a video camera, a digital camera, and a cellular phone, etc. are equipped. Moreover, since the display device of this invention has a wide-field-of-view angle property and a high-speed response characteristic and can prevent the fall of contrast as described above, it is suitable also for a big screen display or animation display.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0176]

[Drawing 1] (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device concerning one gestalt of operation of this invention in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above-mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing explaining the relation between an example of electrode structure and this electrode structure in the above-mentioned display device, and a polarizing plate absorption shaft.

[Drawing 4] Drawing 4 (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in electric-field the condition of not impressing, and <u>drawing</u>

4 (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 5] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the above-mentioned display device in the temperature of under drive temperature.

[Drawing 6] Drawing 1 (a) It is the graph which shows the relation of the applied voltage and the permeability in the display device shown in – (b).

[Drawing 7] The difference in the display principle of the display device which displays using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field, and the conventional liquid crystal display component It is the sectional view typically shown in the configuration and its direction of a main shaft of an average index ellipsoid of the medium at the time of no electricalpotential-difference impressing and electrical-potential-difference impression. (a) is a sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the display device which displays using change of the optical anisotropy by impression of electric field]. (b) is a sectional view at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device shown in (a), and (c) is a sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of TN method]. (d) is a sectional view at the time of electricalpotential-difference impression of the liquid crystal display component shown in (c), and (e) is a sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of VA method]. (f) is a sectional view at the time of electrical-potentialdifference impression of the liquid crystal display component shown in (e), (g) is a sectional view at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [of the liquid crystal display component of an IPS method], and (h) is a sectional view at the time of electrical-potentialdifference impression of the liquid crystal display component shown in (g).

[Drawing 8] It is the mimetic diagram showing an example of the inverted micelle phase mixed stock of a liquid crystal micro emulsion.

[Drawing 9] It is the mimetic diagram showing other examples of the inverted micelle phase mixed stock of a liquid crystal micro emulsion.

[Drawing 10] It is the classification Fig. of a lyotropic liquid crystal phase.

[Drawing 11] (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for a comparison in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for the above-mentioned comparison in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 12] (a) is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for the above-mentioned comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature, and (b) is the explanatory view showing the relation of the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the display device for the above-mentioned comparison.

[Drawing 13] It is the sectional view showing an example of the outline configuration of the display device of the reflective mold concerning one gestalt of operation of this invention.

[Drawing 14] (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the display device concerning the gestalt of other operations of this invention in electric-field the condition of not impressing, (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition, and (c) is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above-mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing.

[Drawing 15] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device concerning the gestalt of other operations of this invention in the temperature of under drive temperature.

[Drawing 16] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for a comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature. [Description of Notations]

[0177]

- 1 Substrate
- 2 Substrate
- 3 Medium Layer
- 3a Index ellipsoid
- 4 Electrode
- 4a Ctenidium part
- 5 Electrode
- 5a Ctenidium part
- 6 Polarizing Plate
- 6a Absorption shaft
- 7 Polarizing Plate
- 7a Absorption shaft
- 8 Orientation Film
- 9 Orientation Film
- 11 Pixel Substrate
- 12 Opposite Substrate
- 21 Reflecting Laver
- 22 Insulating Layer

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0176]

[Drawing 1] (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device concerning one gestalt of operation of this invention in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above-mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing.

<u>[Drawing 3]</u> It is drawing explaining the relation between an example of electrode structure and this electrode structure in the above-mentioned display device, and a polarizing plate absorption shaft.

[Drawing 4] Drawing 4 (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in electric-field the condition of not impressing, and <u>drawing 4</u> (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 5] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the above-mentioned display device in the temperature of under drive temperature.

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[Drawing 6] Drawing 1 (a) It is the graph which shows the relation of the applied voltage and the permeability in the display device shown in - (b).

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[Drawing 8] It is the mimetic diagram showing an example of the inverted micelle phase mixed stock of a liquid crystal micro emulsion.

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[Drawing 11] (a) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for a comparison in electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing typically the outline configuration of the important section of the display device for the above-mentioned comparison in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition.

[Drawing 12] (a) is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for the above-mentioned comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature, and (b) is the explanatory view showing the relation of the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the display device for the above-mentioned comparison.

[Drawing 13] It is the sectional view showing an example of the outline configuration of the display device of the reflective mold concerning one gestalt of operation of this invention.

[Drawing 14] (a) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the display device concerning the gestalt of other operations of this invention in electric-field the condition of not impressing, (b) is the important section top view showing typically the configuration of the above-mentioned display device in an electrical-potential-difference impression condition, and (c) is drawing explaining the relation between the polarizing plate absorption shaft and the direction of electric field (orientation) in the above-mentioned display device, and the direction of rubbing.

[Drawing 15] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device concerning the gestalt of other operations of this invention in the temperature of under drive temperature.

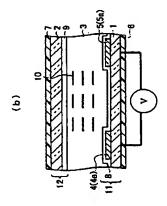
[Drawing 16] It is the important section top view showing typically the condition of the medium of the display device for a comparison in the temperature of under drive temperature.

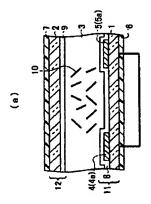
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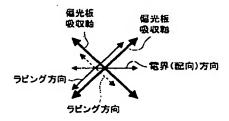
DRAWINGS :

[Drawing 1]

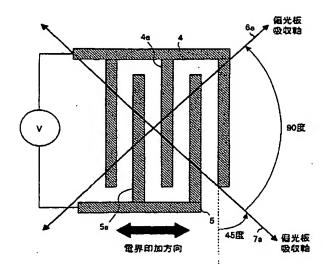




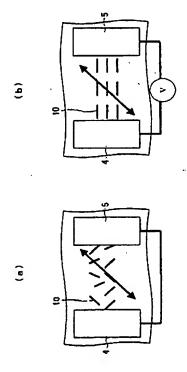
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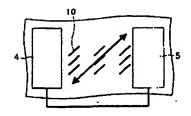
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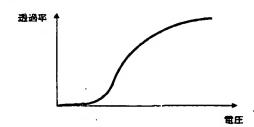
[Drawing 4]



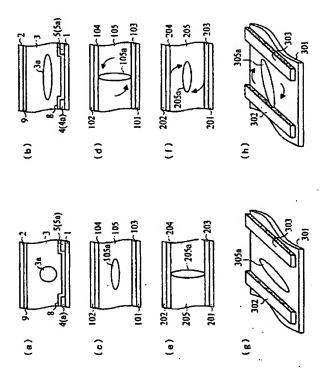
[Drawing 5]



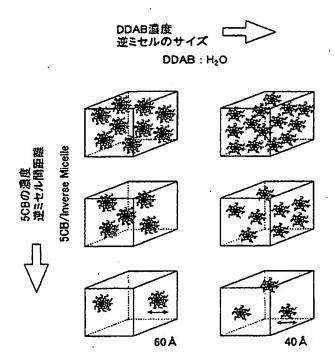
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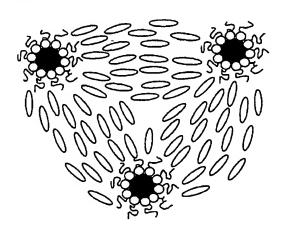
[Drawing 7]



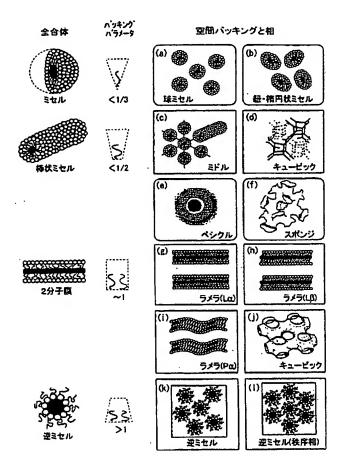
[Drawing 8]



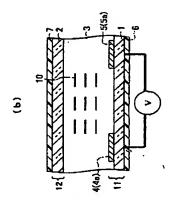
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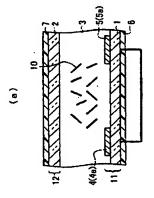


[Drawing 10]

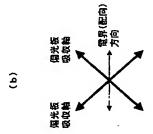


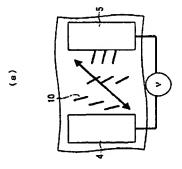
[Drawing 11]



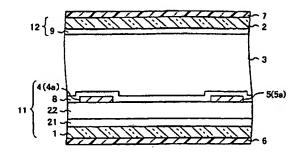


[Drawing 12]

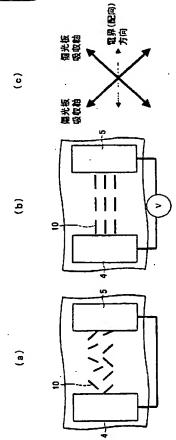




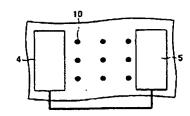
[Drawing 13]



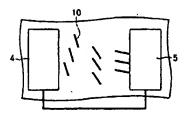
[Drawing 14]



[Drawing 15]



[Drawing 16]



[Translation done.]

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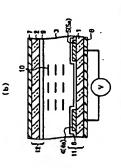
(54) 【発明の名称】 表示案子

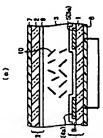
(57)【要約】

【課題】 コントラストが低下することがなく、高速応答性、視野角特性に侵れた表示案子を提供する。

【解決手段】 本発明の表示素子は、少なくとも一方が透明な一対の基板1・2と、該一対の基板1・2間に挟持され、電界の印加により光学的異方性が変化する媒質からなる媒質層3と、上記一対の基板1・2のうち、少なくとも一方の基板1における上記媒質層3との対向面とは反対側に配置された偏光板6・7とを備えている。また、上記基板1・2のうち少なくとも一方の基板1における他方の基板2との対向面表面に、上記偏光板6・7の何れかの偏光板吸収軸に平行または直交する方向の水平配向処理、もしくは、垂直配向処理が施されている

【選択図】 図1





【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

少なくとも一方が透明な一対の基板と、該一対の基板間に挟持され、電界の印加により 光学的異方性が変化する媒質と、上記一対の基板のうち、少なくとも一方の基板における 上記媒質との対向面とは反対側に配置された少なくとも1つの個光板とを備えた表示案子 であって、

上記一対の基板のうち少なくとも一方の基板における他方の基板との対向面表面に、水平配向処理が少なくとも1つの偏光板の吸収軸に平行または直交して施されているか、もしくは、垂直配向処理が施されていることを特徴とする表示素子。

【請求項2】

上記基板に略平行な電界を上記媒質に印加する少なくとも一対の電極を備えると共に、 上記水平配向処理における配向処理方向が、上記電極による電界印加方向に対し、45 度±10度未満の角度をなすことを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

【請求項3】

上記一対の基板のうち一方の基板に、該基板に略平行な電界を上記媒質に印加する少な くとも一対の電極を備えると共に、

他方の基板表面に水平配向膜が設けられていることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示案 子.

【請求項4】

上記一対の基板における互いの対向面表面に、互いに平行または反平行に水平配向処理 が施されていることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

(請求項5)

上記媒質は、電界無印加時に光学的等方性を示し、電圧の印加により光学的異方性を示すことを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

【請求項6】

上記媒質は、電界無印加時に光学的異方性を示し、電圧の印加により光学的等方性を示すことを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

【請求項7】

上記媒質は、電圧印加時または電圧無印加時に光の波長以下の配向秩序を有していることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

【請求項8】

上記媒質が、キュービック対称性を示す秩序構造を有することを特徴とする請求項1記 載の表示素子。

【請求項9】

上記媒質が、キュービック相またはスメクチック D相を示す分子からなることを特徴とする請求項 1 記載の表示案子。

【請求項10】

上記媒質が、液晶マイクロエマルションからなることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示 素子。

【請求項11】

上記媒質が、ミセル相、逆ミセル相、スポンジ相、またはキュービック相を示すリオトロピック液晶からなることを特徴とする額求項1記載の表示案子。

【請求項12】

上記媒質が、ミセル相、逆ミセル相、スポンジ相、またはキュービック相を示す液晶微 粒子分散系からなることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示素子。

【請求項13】

上記媒質が、デンドリマーからなることを特徴とする請求項1記載の表示索子。

【請求項14】

上記媒質が、コレステリックブルー相を示す分子からなることを特徴とする請求項1記

載の表示索子.

【請求項15】

上記媒質が、スメクチックブルー相を示す分子からなることを特徴とする請求項1記載 (【発明の詳細な説明】

【技術分野】

[Q001]

本発明は、高速応答性並びに広視野の表示性能を有する表示素子に関するものである。 【背景技術】

[0002]

液晶表示案子は、各種表示案子のなかでも薄型で軽量かつ消費電力が小さいといった利点を有し、テレビやビデオ等の画像表示装置や、モニター、ワープロ、パーソナルコンピュータ等のOA (Office Automation) 機器に広く用いられている。

[0003]

液晶表示素子の液晶表示方式としては、従来、例えば、ネマチック液晶を用いたTN(ツイステッドネマチック)モードや、強誘電性液晶(FLC)あるいは反強誘電性液晶(AFLC)を用いた表示モード、高分子分散型液晶表示モード等が知られている。

[0004]

そのなかでも、従来、実用化されている液晶表示素子としては、例えば、ネマチック液晶を用いたTN(ツイステッドネマチック)モードの液晶表示素子が挙げられるが、該TNモードを用いた液晶表示素子には、応答が遅い、視野角が狭い等の欠点があり、これら欠点は、CRT (cathode ray tube)を凌駕する上で大きな妨げとなっている。

[0005]

また、FLCあるいはAFLCを用いた表示モードの場合、応答が速く、視野角が広い といった利点を有してはいるものの、耐ショック性、温度特性等の面で大きな欠点があり 、広く実用化されるまでには至っていない。

[0006]

さらに、光散乱を利用する高分子分散型液晶表示モードは、偏光板を必要とせず、高輝度表示が可能であるが、本質的に位相板による視角制御ができない上、応答特性の面で課題を有しており、TNモードに対する優位性は少ない。

[0007]

これら表示方式は、何れも、液晶分子が一定方向に整列した状態にあり、液晶分子に対する角度によって見え方が異なるため、視角制限がある。また、これら表示方式は、何れも、電界印加による液晶分子の回転を利用するものであり、液晶分子が整列したまま揃って回転するため、応答に時間を要する。なお、FLCやAFLCを用いた表示モードの場合、応答速度や視野角の面では有利であるが、外力による非可逆的な配向破壊が問題となる。

[0008]

一方、電界印加による分子の回転を利用するこれら表示方式に対して、二次の電気光学効果を利用した電子分極による表示方式が提案されている。

[0009]

電気光学効果とは物質の屈折率が外部電界によって変化する現象である。電気光学効果には、電界の一次に比例する効果と二次に比例する効果とがあり、それぞれボッケルス効果、カー効果と呼ばれている。特に、カー効果と呼ばれる二次の電気光学効果は、高速の光シャッターへの応用が早くから進められており、特殊な計測機器において実用化がなされている。カー効果は、1875年にJ. Kerr (カー)によって発見されたものであり、これまでに、カー効果を示す材料としては、ニトロベンゼンや二硫化炭素等の有機液体等の材料が知られており、これら材料は、例えば、前記した光シャッターの他に、電力ケーブル等の高電界強度測定等に利用されている。

[0010]

その後、液晶材料が大きなカー定数を有することが示され、光変調素子、光偏光素子、

さらには光集積回路応用に向けての基礎検討が行われ、前記ニトロベンゼンの200倍を 越えるカー定数を示す液晶化合物も報告されている。

【0011】

このような状況において、カー効果の表示装置への応用が検討され始めている。カー効果は、電界の二次に比例するため、相対的に低電圧駆動を見込むことができる上、本質的に、数マイクロ秒~数ミリ秒の応答特性を示すため、高速応答表示装置への応用が期待される。

[0012]

このような状況の中、例えば、特許文献1、特許文献2、および非特許文献1においては、液晶性物質からなる媒質を一対の基板間に封入し、基板に平行または垂直な電界を印加してカー効果を誘起し、表示案子として適用することが提案されている。 【0013】

このような表示素子においては、上記基板のそれぞれの外側に、互いの吸収軸が直交する偏光板を配置し、電圧無印加時に媒質が光学的に等方であり黒表示を実現する一方、電圧印加時には複屈折が発生し、これによる透過率変化をもたらすことにより、階調表示を行っている。このため、基板法線方向のコントラストは極めて高い値を実現することができる。

【特許文献1】特開2001-249363号公報(2001年9月14日公開)

【特許文献2】特開平11-183937号公報(1999年7月9日公開)

【非特許文献1】Shiro Matsumoto、外3名,「Fine droplets of liquid crystals in a transparent polymer and their response to an electric field」, Appl. Phys., 1996年, Lett., 69, p. 1044-1046

【非特許文献2】Takashi Kato、外2名,「Fast and High-Contrast Electro-optical Switching of Liquid-Crystalline Physical Gels: Formation of Oriented Microphase-Se parated Structures」, Adv. Funct. Mater., 2003年4月, vol. 13. No. 4, p313-317

【非特許文献3】斉藤一弥、外1名、「光学的に等方性である珍しいサーモトロピック液晶の熱力学」、液晶、2001年、第5巻、第1号、p.20-27

【非特許文献4】山本潤, 「液晶マイクロエマルション」, 液晶, 2000年, 第4巻, 第3号, p.248-254

【非特許文献5】白石 幸英、外4名. 「液晶分子で保護したパラジウムナノ粒子ー調製とゲスト-ホストモード液晶表示素子への応用」. 高分子論文集. 2002年12月. Vo1.59, No.12, p.753-759

【非特許文献6】Hirotsugu kikuchi、外4名, 「Polymer-stabilized liquid crystal b lue phases」, p. 64-68, [online], 2002年9月2日, Nature Materials, v o l. 1, [2003年7月10日検索], インターネット〈URL: http://www.nature.com/naturematerials〉

【非特許文献7】米谷 慎、「分子シミュレーションでナノ構造液晶相を探る」、液晶、2003年、第7巻、第3号、p.238-245

【非特許文献8】D.Demus、外3名編,「Handbook of Liquid Crystals Low Molecular Weight Liquid Crystal」, Wiley-VCH, 1998年, vol. 2B, p. 887-900 【非特許文献9】D.Demus、外3名編,「Handbook of Liquid Crystals Low Molecular Weight Liquid Crystal」, Wiley-VCH, 1998年, vol. 1, p. 484-485

【非特許文献10】Eric Grelet、外3名、「Structural Investigations on Smectic Blue Phases」、PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS、The American Physical Society,2001年4月23日、vol. 86、No. 17、p3791-3794

【非特許文献11】山本潤,「液晶科学実験講座第1回:液晶相の同定:(4)リオトロピック液晶」,液晶,2002年,第6巻,第1号,p.72-83

【非特許文献12】山本凉一、外1名,「有機電気光学材料」,National Technical Report, 1976年12月, vol. 22, No. 6, p.826-834

【発明の開示】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

[0014]

しかしながら、本願発明者等による詳細な検討によれば、上記従来の構成を有する表示 素子は、場合によってはコントラスト(白表示輝度/黒表示輝度)の低下現象が起こることが見出され、上記表示素子を用いたテレビやパソコンモニタの実用性に問題があること が判った。

[0015]

本願発明者等の検討によれば、コントラストが低下する要因としては、以下の2つの要因が挙げられる。

[0016]

まず一つには、電界の印加により光学的異方性が発現する媒質を表示媒質に用いた従来の表示素子または該表示素を備えた表示装置において電源の投入を行ったとき、周囲温度が低い場合には、上記媒質が本来駆動されるべき温度に達しておらず、媒質の物理的な状態が、素子駆動時に本来有しているべき状態とは異なっていることがあることが挙げられる。例えば、上記媒質がネマチックー等方相の相転移温度直上の等方相状態で、本来駆動しなければならない場合、電源投入時に、上記相転移温度よりも低温のネマチック状態になっていることがある。この場合、電界無印加状態では本来等方状態により黒表示を達成しなければならないときに、無電界印加でも光学的異方性を有するネマチックでは、その光学的異方性により光を透過させてしまうことになる。したがって、このような場合には、良好な黒表示ができなくなり、コントラストが低下してしまう。もちろん、ヒータや光源(バックライト)により表示素子を過熱し、良好な表示を得ることができるが、瞬時に温度を上昇させ、また安定化させることは容易なことではない。

[0017]

もう一つは、セル内部における、基板界面から離れたバルク領域では、媒質(表示媒質)が光学的等方状態を実現していても、基板界面では基板により媒質を構成する分子が強固に吸着されてしまうために、光学的等方状態を実現できなくなる場合があることが挙げられる。例えば、ネマチック-等方相の相転移温度直上O.1 Kの温度で駆動させる場合、基板界面付近はネマチック状態になっている。

[0018]

いずれにせよ、基板界面付近では、吸着現象により、上記媒質の物理状態が、素子駆動時に本来有しているべき状態とは異なり、セル内部における、基板界面から離れたバルク領域とは異なる、基板界面近傍の媒質により、黒表示時においても光が透過してしまう現象が発生し、この結果、コントラストが低下してしまう。

[0019]

本発明は、上記問題点に鑑みなされたものであり、その目的は、上記問題点を招来しない表示素子、つまり、コントラストが低下することがなく、高速応答性、視野角特性に優れた表示素子を提供することにある。

【課題を解決するための手段】

[0020]

本発明にかかる表示素子は、上記課題を解決するために、少なくとも一方が透明な一対の基板と、該一対の基板間に挟持され、電界の印加により光学的異方性が変化する媒質と、上記一対の基板のうち、少なくとも一方の基板における上記媒質との対向面とは反対側に配置された少なくとも1つの個光板とを備えた表示素子であって、上記一対の基板のうち少なくとも一方の基板における他方の基板との対向面表面に、水平配向処理が少なくとも1つの偏光板の吸収軸に平行または直交して施されているか、もしくは、垂直配向処理が施されていることを特徴としている。

[0021]

上記の構成によれば、上記一対の基板のうち少なくとも一方の基板における他方の基板 との対向面表面に、少なくとも1つの偏光板の吸収軸、つまり、上記一対の基板のうち少 なくとも一方の基板における上記媒質との対向面とは反対側に配置された何れかの偏光板の吸収軸に平行または直交する方向の水平配向処理、もしくは、垂直配向処理が施されていることで、例えば周囲温度が低く、電源投入時に、媒質が、本来駆動されるべき温度に達しておらず、媒質の物理的状態が、本来の駆動時の状態と異なっている場合であっても、上記媒質を、上記配向方向(配向処理方向)に配向させることができるので、該媒質(物理的状態が、本来の駆動時の状態と異なる媒質)による光学的寄与を消失させることができ、上記表示素子の温度が上昇するまでにおいても、良好な表示を実現することが可能になる。また、上記の構成によれば、所望の駆動温度に達したとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得ることができる。よって、上記の構成によれば、コントラストが低下することがなく、高速応答性、視野角特性に優れた表示素子を提供することができるという効果を奏する。

[0022]

また、本発明にかかる表示素子は、上記課題を解決するために、上記基板に略平行な電界を上記媒質に印加する少なくとも一対の電極を備えると共に、上記水平配向処理における配向処理方向が、上記電極による電界印加方向に対し、45度±10度未満の角度をなすことを特徴としている。

[0023]

上記したように電界が基板に略平行に印加される表示案子では、水平配向処理における配向処理方向が、上記電極による電界印加方向に対し、45度±10度未満の角度をなす。 ことで、透過率を最大化することができるという効果を奏する。

[0024]

上記表示案子は、上記一対の基板のうち一方の基板に、該基板に略平行な電界を上記媒質に印加する少なくとも一対の電極を備えると共に、他方の基板表面に水平配向膜が設けられていることが望ましい。

[0025]

電極上に配向膜を形成すると、上記媒質、すなわち表示媒質に有効に印加される電圧が 低下する。さらに、前記効果は、両基板表面に上記水平配向膜が形成されている場合ほど ではないが、一方の基板表面にのみ水平配向膜が形成されている場合にも得ることができ る。

[0026]

よって、一方の基板、例えば一方の基板における他方の基板との対向面表面にのみ、該 基板に略平行な電界を上記媒質に印加する少なくとも一対の電極を備えると共に、他方の 基板表面、つまり、電極非形成側の基板表面に上記水平配向膜が設けられていることで、 配向膜による電圧降下が発生せず、素子の駆動電圧が上昇することなく、黒輝度を小さく することができるという効果を奏する。また、上記の構成によれば、所望の駆動温度にな ったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得 ることができるという効果を併せて奏する。

[0027]

また、上記表示素子は、上記一対の基板における互いの対向面表面に、互いに平行または反平行に水平配向処理が施されていることが望ましい。

[0028]

上記一対の基板における互いの対向面表面に、互いに平行または反平行に水平配向処理が施されていることで、コントラストの最大化を図ることができ、例えば黒輝度をより一層小さくすることができるという効果を奏する。なお、本発明において、平行とは、互いの配向処理方向が、平行でかつ向きが同じ場合を示すものとし、反平行とは、互いの配向処理方向が、平行でかつ向きが反対(逆)の場合を示すものとする。

[0029]

また、上記媒質は、電界無印加時に光学的等方性を示し、電圧の印加により光学的異方性を示すものであってもよく、電界無印加時に光学的異方性を示し、電圧の印加により光学的等方性を示すものであってもよい。

[0030]

上記何れの構成においても、電界の印加により、電界無印加時と電界印加時とで上記媒質の屈折率楕円体の形状を変化させることができ、光学的異方性の方向は一定のまま、光学的異方性(配向秩序度、屈折率)の程度を変化させることによって表示を行うことができる。よって、上記の何れの構成においても、広視野角特性および高速応答特性を有する表示素子を実現することができるという効果を奏する。

【0031】

また、上記媒質は、電圧印加時または電圧無印加時に光の波長以下の配向秩序を有するものであってもよい。

[0032]

配向秩序が光の波長以下であれば、光学的に等方性を示す。従って、電圧印加時または電圧無印加時に配向秩序が光の波長以下となる媒質を用いることにより、電圧無印加時と電圧印加時とにおける表示状態を確実に異ならせることができるという効果を奏する。

[0033]

また、上記媒質は、キュービック対称性を示す秩序構造を有するものであってもよい。 【0034】

また、上記媒質は、キュービック相またはスメクチックD相を示す分子からなるものであってもよい。

[0035]

また、上記媒質は、液晶マイクロエマルションからなるものであってもよい。

[0036]

また、上記媒質は、ミセル相、逆ミセル相、スポンジ相、またはキュービック相を示す リオトロピック液晶からなるものであってもよい。

[0037]

また、上記媒質は、ミセル相、逆ミセル相、スポンジ相、またはキュービック相を示す 液晶微粒子分散系からなるものであってもよい。

[0038]

また、上記媒質は、デンドリマーからなるものであってもよい。

[0039]

また、上記媒質は、コレステリックブルー相を示す分子からなるものであってもよい。 【0040】

また、上記媒質は、スメクチックブルー相を示す分子からなるものであってもよい。

上記した物質は何れも電界を印加することによって光学的異方性が変化する。従って、 上記した物質は何れも上記媒質として用いることができる。

【発明の効果】

[0042]

本発明にかかる表示素子は、以上のように、上記一対の基板のうち少なくとも一方の基板における他方の基板との対向面表面に、上記一対の基板のうち少なくとも一方の基板における他方の基板との対向面表面に、水平配向処理が少なくとも1つの偏光板の吸収軸に平行または直交して施されているか、もしくは、垂直配向処理が施されていることで、例えば周囲温度が低く、電源投入時に、媒質が、本来駆動されるべき温度に達しておらず、媒質の物理的状態が、本来の駆動時の状態と異なっている場合であっても、上記媒質を、上記配向方向(配向処理方向)に配向させることができるので、該媒質(物理的状態が、本来の駆動時の状態と異なる媒質)による光学的寄与を消失させることができ、上記表示素子の温度が上昇するまでにおいても、良好な表示を実現することができ、上記表示素子の温度が上昇するまでにおいても、良好な表示を実現することが可能になる。また、上記の構成によれば、所望の駆動温度に達したとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得ることができる。よって、上記の構成によれば、コントラストが低下することがなく、高速応答性、視野角特性に優れた表示素子を提供することができるという効果を奏する。

【発明を実施するための最良の形態】

[0043]

本発明の実施の一形態について図1ないし図13に基づいて説明すれば、以下の通りである。

[0044]

図1 (a)は、電圧無印加状態 (OFF状態)における本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図であり、図1 (b)は電圧印加状態 (ON状態)における本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図である。また、図2は、上記表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界 (配向)方向とラビング方向との関係を説明する図である。さらに、図3は、上記表示素子における電極構造の一例および該電極構造と偏光板吸収軸との関係を説明する図である。

[0045]

図1(a)・(b)に示すように、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子は、互いに対向して配置された、少なくとも一方が透明な一対の基板(以下、画素基板11および対向基板12と記す)を備え、これら一対の基板間に、光学変調層として、電界の印加により光学変調する媒質(以下、媒質Aと記す)からなる媒質層3が挟持されているセル構造を有している。

[0046]

また、上記画素基板11および対向基板12は、図1(a)・(b)に示すように、媒質保持手段(光学変調層保持手段)としての基板1・2をそれぞれ有し、これら一対の基板1・2の外側(画素基板11および対向基板12の外側)、つまり、これら両基板1・2の対向面とは反対側の面に、偏光板6・7がそれぞれ設けられている構成を有している

[0047]

上記一対の基板 1・2のうち、少なくとも一方の基板は透光性を有する、例えばガラス 基板等の透明な基板からなり、これら一対の基板 1・2のうち、一方の基板 1における他 方の基板 2との対向面上には、図1(a)・(b)に示すように上記基板 1に略平行な電 界(横向きの電界)を上記媒質層 3に印加するための電界印加手段である電極 4・5が互 いに対向配置されている。

[0048]

上記電極4・5は、例えばITO(インジウム錫酸化物)等の透明電極材料等の電極材料からなり、本実施の形態では、例えば線幅 5μ m、電極間距離(電極間隔) 5μ m、厚み 0.3μ mに設定されている。但し、上記電極材料並びに線幅、電極間距離、および厚みは単なる一例であり、これに限定されるものではない。上記電極 $4\cdot5$ の一例としては、例えば図3に示すように櫛歯部分4a·5aが互いに噛み合う方向に対向配置された櫛形電極が挙げられるが、上記基板1に略平行な電界(横向きの電界)を上記媒質層3に印加することができさえすれば、特に限定されるものではない。

[0049]

さらに、上記基板1における基板2との対向面上、つまり、上記画素基板11における対向基板12との対向面表面には、ラビング処理が施された配向膜8(誘電体薄膜)が、上記電極4・5を覆うように、上記基板1における基板2との対向面全面に渡って形成されている。

[0050]

また、上記基板2における基板1との対向面上、つまり、上記対向基板12における画 素基板11との対向面表面にも、ラビング処理が施された配向膜9(誘電体薄膜)が、上 記基板2における基板1との対向面全面に渡って形成されている。

[0051]

上記配向膜8・9は、図2に示すように、そのラビング方向が、上記偏光板6・7の吸収軸6 a・7 a (図3参照、偏光板吸収軸)のうち何れか一方の偏光板吸収軸と一致するように、上記ラビング処理として、配向処理方向が基板面内方向の水平ラビング処理(水

平配向処理)が施されている.

[0052]

また、図2および図3に示すように、偏光板6・7は、互いの偏光板吸収軸方向が直交するように配置されていると共に、各偏光板6・7における偏光板吸収軸は、電極4・5の電界印加方向に対して45度の角度をなしている。

[0053]

本実施の形態にかかる表示素子において、媒質層 3は、図 1 (b)に示すように電界印加方向に配向秩序度が上昇することにより光学的異方性が発現し、透過率が変化するシャック型の表示素子として機能し得る。したがって、互いに直交する偏光板吸収軸方向に対して、その異方性方向は、4 5 度の角度をなす時に最大透過率を与える。なお、媒質 A の光学的異方性が発現する方位が、偏光板吸収軸にそれぞれ $\pm \theta$ (度)の角度に存在するとしたときの透過率 (P)は、P(%)=Sin²(2 θ)より見積もられ、上記 θ が45 度の時の透過率を 100%とすれば、ほぼ90%以上であれば人間の目には最大輝度を有していると感じられることから、上記 θ は、35 度 θ < 55 度であれば、人間の目には最大輝度を有していると感じられる。つまり、本実施の形態に示すように、電界が例えば基板 1 に略平行に印加される表示素子では、偏光板吸収軸方向、言い換えれば、水平配向処理における配向処理方向(ラビング方向)が、上記電極4・5 による電界印加方向に対し、45 度 θ 10 度未満、より好適には45 度 θ 5 度未満、最も好適には45 度の角度をなすことで、透過率を最大化することができる。

[0054]

本実施の形態では、図2・3に示すように、両基板1・2にそれぞれ設けられた偏光板6・7は、互いの偏光板吸収軸方向が直交すると共に、各偏光板6・7における偏光板吸収軸と電極4・5(横歯部分4 a・5 a)の電極伸長方向とが4 5度の角度をなすように形成されている。

[0055]

よって、上記表示素子において、上記電極4・5による電界印加方向は、上記偏光板6・7の偏光板吸収軸方向並びに配向膜8・9のラビング方向と45度の角度をなしている

[0056]

本実施の形態において、上記配向膜8・9におけるラビング方向は、図2に示すように、上記偏光板6・7の何れか一方の偏光板吸収軸と一致してさえいれば、互いに平行(互いの配向(処理)方向が、平行でかつ向きが同じ)であってもよく、反平行(逆平行)、つまり、互いの配向(処理)方向が、平行でかつ向きが反対(逆)であってもよく、直交していてもよい。

[0057]

本実施の形態において用いられる上記配向膜8・9は、それぞれ、有機膜であってもよいし、無機膜であってもよく、上記媒質Aを構成する分子10の配向の秩序の度合いを向上させ、該分子10を、所望の方向に配向させることができさえすれば、特に限定されるものではないが、上記配向膜8・9を有機薄膜により形成した場合、良好な配向効果を示すことから、上記配向膜8・9としては有機薄膜を用いることがより望ましい。このような有機薄膜の中でもポリイミドは安定性、信頼性が高く、極めて優れた配向効果を示すことから、配向膜材料にポリイミドを使用することで、より良好な表示性能を示す表示案子を提供することができる。

[0058]

なお、上記配向膜8・9としては、市販の水平配向膜を用いることができる。 【0059】

また、上記配向膜8・9としては、その配向制御が容易であることから光感応性を有する官能基(以下、光官能基と記す)を有していてもよい。上記光官能基としては、例えば二量化反応をするシンナメート系、カルコン系等や、異性化反応をするアゾ系等が挙げられるが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではない。

[0060]

上記配向膜8・9が光官能基を有する場合、上記画素基板11および対向基板12表面、すなわち、上記配向膜8・9表面に、偏光された紫外線の照射(以下、偏光紫外光照射と記す)を行って配向規制力を発現させることにより、容易に所望の配向処理を行うことができる。

[0061]

上記表示索子は、例えば、上記画索基板11と対向基板12とを、図示しないシール剤により、必要に応じて、例えば図示しないプラスチックビーズやガラスファイバースペーサ等のスペーサを介して貼り合わせ、その空隙に、前記媒質Aを封入することにより形成される。

[0062]

本実施の形態に用いられる上記媒質Aは、電界を印加することにより、光学的異方性が変化する媒質である。物質中に外部から電界 E_j を加えると、電気変位 $D_{i,j}=\epsilon_{i,j}$ ・ E_j を生じるが、そのとき、誘電率($\epsilon_{i,j}$)にもわずかな変化が見られる。光の周波数では屈折率(n)の自乗は誘電率と等価であるから、上記媒質Aは、電界の印加により、屈折率が変化する物質と言うこともできる。

[0063]

このように、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子は、物質の屈折率が外部電界によって変化する現象(電気光学効果)を利用して表示を行うものであり、電界印加により分子(分子の配向方向)が揃って回転することを利用した液晶表示素子とは異なり、光学的異方性の方向は殆ど変化せず、その光学的異方性の程度の変化(主に、電子分極や配向分極)により表示を行うようになっている。

[0064]

上記媒質Aとしては、ボッケルス効果またはカー効果を示す物質等、電界無印加時に光学的には等方(巨視的に見て等方であればよい)であり、電界印加により光学的異方性が発現する物質であってもよく、電界無印加時に光学的異方性を有し、電界印加により異方性が消失し、光学的に等方性(巨視的に見て等方であればよい)を示す物質であってもよい。典型的には、電界無印加時には光学的に等方(巨視的に見て等方であればよい)であり、電界印加により光学変調(特に電界印加により複屈折が上昇することが望ましい)を発現する媒質である。

[0065]

ボッケルス効果、カー効果(それ自身は、等方相状態で観察される)は、それぞれ、電界の一次または二次に比例する電気光学効果であり、電圧無印加状態では、等方相であるため光学的に等方的であるが、電圧印加状態では、電界が印加されている領域において、電界方向に化合物の分子の長軸方向が配向し、複屈折が発現することにより透過率を変調することができる。例えば、カー効果を示す物質を用いた表示方式の場合、電界を印加して1つの分子内での電子の偏りを制御することにより、ランダムに配列した個々の分子が各々別個に回転して向きを変えることから、応答速度が非常に速く、また、分子が無秩序に配列していることから、視角制限がないという利点がある。なお、上記媒質Aのうち、大まかに見て電界の一次または二次に比例しているものは、ボッケルス効果またはカー効果を示す物質として扱うことができる。

[0066]

ボッケルス効果を示す物質としては、例えば、ヘキサミン等の有機固体材料等が挙げられるが、特に限定されるものではない。上記媒質Aとしては、ボッケルス効果を示す各種有機材料、無機材料を用いることができる。

[0067]

また、カー効果を示す物質としては、下配構造式(1)~(4) 【0068】 【化1】

$$C_{5}H_{11} \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} \bigcirc \bigcirc -CN \cdots (1)$$

$$C_{3}H_{7} \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} F \cdots (2)$$

$$C_{5}H_{11} \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} F \cdots (3)$$

$$C_{7}H_{15} \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} H \xrightarrow{\bigcirc} F \cdots (4)$$

[0069]

で示される液晶性物質等が挙げられるが、特に限定されるものではない。 【0070】

カー効果は、入射光に対して透明な媒質中で観測される。このため、カー効果を示す物質は、透明媒質として用いられる。通常、液晶性物質は、温度上昇に伴って、短距離秩序を持った液晶相から、分子レベルでランダムな配向を有する等方相に移行する。つまり、液晶性物質のカー効果は、ネマチック相ではなく、液晶相一等方相温度以上の等方相状態の液体に見られる現象であり、上記液晶性物質は、透明な誘電性液体として使用される。【0071】

液晶性物質等の誘電性液体は、加熱による使用環境温度(加熱温度)が高いほど、等方相状態となる。よって、上記媒質として液晶性物質等の誘電性液体を使用する場合には、該誘電性液体を透明、すなわち可視光に対して透明な液体状態で使用するために、例えば、(1)媒質層3の周辺に、図示しないヒータ等の加熱手段を設け、該加熱手段により上記誘電性液体をその透明点以上に加熱して用いてもよいし、(2)バックライトからの熱輻射や、バックライトおよび/または周辺駆動回路からの熱伝導(この場合、上記バックライトや周辺駆動回路が加熱手段として機能する)等により、上記誘電性液体をその透明点以上に加熱して用いてもよい。また、(3)上記基板1・2の少なくとも一方に、ヒータとしてシート状ヒータ(加熱手段)を貼合し、所定の温度に加熱して用いてもよい。さらに、上記誘電性液体を透明状態で用いるために、透明点が、上記表示索子の使用温度範囲下限よりも低い材料を用いてもよい。

[0072]

上記媒質Aは、液晶性物質を含んでいることが望ましく、上記媒質Aとして液晶性物質を使用する場合には、該液晶性物質は、巨視的には等方相を示す透明な液体であるが、微視的には一定の方向に配列した短距離秩序を有する分子集団であるクラスタを含んでいることが望ましい。なお、上記液晶性物質は可視光に対して透明な状態で使用されることから、上記クラスタも、可視光に対して透明(光学的に等方)な状態で用いられる。【0073】

このために、上記表示案子は、上述したように、ヒータ等の加熱手段を用いて温度制御を行ってもよいし、特許文献 2 に記載されているように、媒質層 3 を、高分子材料等を用いて小区域に分割して用いてもよく、上記液晶性物質の直径を例えば 0 . 1 μ m以下とする等、上記液晶性物質を、光の波長よりも小さな径を有する微小ドロップレットとし、光の散乱を抑制することにより透明状態とするか、あるいは、使用環境温度(室温)にて透明な等方相を示す液晶性化合物を使用する等してもよい。上記液晶性物質の直径、さらにはクラスタの径(長径)が 0 . 1 μ m以下、つまり、光の波長(入射光波長)よりも小さい場合の光の散乱は無視することができる。このため、例えば上記クラスタの径が0 . 1 μ m以下であれば、上記クラスタもまた可視光に対して透明である。

[0074]

なお、上記媒質Aは、上述したようにポッケルス効果またはカー効果を示す物質に限定されない。このため、上記媒質Aは、分子の配列が、光の波長以下(例えばナノスケール)のスケールのキュービック対称性を有する秩序構造を有し、光学的には等方的に見えるキュービック相(非特許文献3・6~8参照)を有していてもよい。キュービック相は上記媒質Aとして使用することができる液晶性物質の液晶相の一つであり、キュービック相を示す液晶性物質としては、例えば、下記構造式(5)

[0075]

[1]

$$C_8H_{17}O$$
 O
 H
 O
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$
 $OH_{17}C_8$

[0076]

で示されるBABH8等が挙げられる。このような液晶性物質に電界を印加すれば、微細構造に歪みが与えられ、光学変調を誘起させることが可能となる。

[0077]

BABH8は、136.7℃以上、161℃以下の温度範囲では、光の波長以下のスケールのキュービック対称性を有する秩序構造からなるキュービック相を示す。該BABH8は、光の波長以下の秩序構造を有し、上記温度範囲において、電圧無印加時に光学的等方性を示すことで、直交ニコル下において良好な黒表示を行うことができる。 【0078】

一方、上記BABH8の温度を、例えば前記した加熱手段等を用いて136.7℃以上、161℃以下に制御しながら、電極4・5(梅形電極)間に電圧を印加すると、キュービック対称性を有する構造(秩序構造)に歪みが生じる。すなわち、上記BABH8は、上記の温度範囲において、電圧無印加状態では等方的であり、電圧印加により異方性が発現する。

[0079]

これにより、上記媒質層3において複屈折が発生するので、上記表示素子は、良好な白表示を行うことができる。なお、複屈折が発生する方向は一定であり、その大きさが電圧印加によって変化する。また、電極4・5(梅形電極)間に印加する電圧と透過率との関係を示す電圧透過率曲線は、136.7℃以上、161℃以下の温度範囲、すなわち、約20Kという広い温度範囲において安定した曲線となる。このため、上記BABH8を上記媒質Aとして使用した場合、温度制御を極めて容易に行うことができる。すなわち、上記BABH8からなる媒質層3は、熱的に安定な相であるため、急激な温度依存性が発現せず、温度制御が極めて容易である。

[0080]

また、上記媒質Aとしては、液晶分子が光の波長以下のサイズで放射状に配向した集合

体で充填された、光学的に等方的に見えるような系を実現することも可能であり、その手法としては非特許文献4に記載の液晶マイクロエマルションや非特許文献5に記載の液晶・微粒子分散系(溶媒(液晶)中に微粒子を混在させた混合系、以下、単に液晶微粒子分散系と記す)の手法を応用することも可能である。これらに電界を印加すれば、放射状配向の集合体に歪みが与えられ、光学変調を誘起させることが可能である。 【0081】

なお、これら液晶性物質は、何れも、単体で液晶性を示すものであってもよいし、複数の物質が混合されることにより液晶性を示すものであってもよいし、これらの物質に他の非液晶性物質が混入されていてもよい。さらには、非特許文献1に記載されているような高分子・液晶分散系の物質を適用することもできる。また、非特許文献2に記載されているようなゲル化剤を添加してもよい。

[0082]

また、上記媒質Aとしては、有極性分子を含有することが望ましく、例えばニトロベンゼン等が媒質Aとして好適である。なお、ニトロベンゼンもカー効果を示す媒質の一種である。

[0083]

以下に、上記媒質Aとして用いることができる物質もしくは該物質の形態の一例を示すが、本発明は以下の例示にのみ限定されるものではない。

[0084]

〔スメクチックD相(SmD)〕

スメクチックD相(SmD)は、上記媒質Aとして使用することができる液晶性物質の液晶相の一つであり、三次元格子構造を有し、その格子定数が光の波長以下である。このため、スメクチックD相は、光学的には等方性を示す。

[0085]

スメクチックD相を示す液晶性物質としては、例えば、非特許文献3もしくは非特許文献8に記載の下記一般式(6)・(7)

[0086]

[1<u>k</u>3]

$$C_mH_{2m+1}O$$

$$O$$

$$OH$$

$$NO_2$$

$$OH$$

$$C_mH_{2m+1}O$$
 COOH \cdots (7)

[0087]

で表されるANBC16等が挙げられる。なお、上記一般式(6)・(7)において、m は任意の整数、具体的には、一般式(6)においてはm=16、一般式(7)においてはm=15を示し、Xは NO_2 基を示す。

[0088]

上記ANBC16は、171.0℃~197.2℃の温度範囲において、スメクチック D相が発現する。ANBC16がスメクチックD相を示す上記の温度領域において、AN BC16に電界を印加すれば、ANBC16の分子自身に誘電異方性が存在するため、分 子が電界方向に向こうとして格子構造に歪が生じる。すなわち、ANBC16に光学的異方性が発現する。なお、ANBC16に限らず、スメクチックD相を示す物質であれば、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子の媒質Aとして適用することができる。

[0089]

〔液晶マイクロエマルション〕

液晶マイクロエマルションとは、非特許文献4において提案された、O/W型マイクロエマルション(油の中に水を界面活性剤で水滴の形で溶解させた系で、油が連続相となる)の油分子をサーモトロピック液晶分子で置換したシステム(混合系)の総称である。 【0090】

液晶マイクロエマルションの具体例としては、例えば、非特許文献4に記載されている、ネマチック液晶相を示すサーモトロピック液晶であるペンチルシアノビフェニル(5CB)と、逆ミセル相を示すリオトロピック(ライオトロピック)液晶であるジドデシルアンモニウムブロマイド(DDAB)の水溶液との混合系がある。この混合系は、図8および図9に示すような模式図で表される構造を有している。

[0091]

また、この混合系は、典型的には逆ミセルの直径が50A程度、逆ミセル間の距離が200A程度である。これらのスケールは光の波長より一桁程度小さい。また、逆ミセルが三次元空間的にランダムに存在しており、各逆ミセルを中心に5CBが放射状に配向している。したがって、この混合系は、光学的には等方性を示す。

[0092]

そして、この混合系からなる媒質に電界を印加すれば、5 C B に誘電異方性が存在するため、分子自身が電界方向に向こうとする。すなわち、逆ミセルを中心に放射状に配向していたため光学的に等方であった系に、配向異方性が発現し、光学的異方性が発現する。なお、上記の混合系に限らず、電圧無印加時には光学的に等方性を示し、電圧印加によって光学的異方性が発現する液晶マイクロエマルションであれば、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子の媒質Aとして適用することができる。

[0093]

〔リオトロピック液晶〕

リオトロピック(ライオトロピック)液晶とは、液晶を形成する主たる分子が、他の性質を持つ溶媒(水や有機溶剤など)に溶けているような他成分系の液晶を意味する。また、上記の特定の相とは、電界無印加時に光学的に等方性を示す相である。このような特定の相としては、例えば、非特許文献11に記載されているミセル相、スポンジ相、キュービック相、逆ミセル相がある。図10に、リオトロピック液晶相の分類図を示す。【0094】

両親媒性物質である界面活性剤には、ミセル相を発現する物質がある。例えば、イオン 性界面活性剤である硫酸ドデシルナトリウムの水溶液やパルチミン酸カリウムの水溶液等 は球状ミセルを形成する。また、非イオン性界面活性剤であるポリオキシエチレンノニル フェニルエーテルと水との混合液では、ノニルフェニル基が疎水基として働き、オキシエ チレン鎖が親水基として働くことにより、ミセルを形成する。他にも、スチレンーエチレ ンオキシドブロック共重合体の水溶液でもミセルを形成する。

[0095]

例えば、球状ミセルは、分子が空間的全方位にパッキング(分子集合体を形成)して球状を示す。また、球状ミセルのサイズは、光の波長以下であるため、異方性を示さず、等方的に見える。しかしながら、このような球状ミセルに電界を印加すれば、球状ミセルが歪むため異方性を発現する。よって、球状ミセル相を有するリオトロビック液晶もまた、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子の媒質Aとして適用することができる。なお、球状ミセル相に限らず、他の形状のミセル相、すなわち、紐状ミセル相、楕円状ミセル相、棒状ミセル相等を媒質Aとして使用しても、同様の効果を得ることができる。

[0096]

また、濃度、温度、界面活性剤の条件によっては、親水基と疎水基とが入れ替わった逆

ミセルが形成されることが一般に知られている。このような逆ミセルは、光学的にはミセルと同様の効果を示す。したがって、逆ミセル相を媒質Aとして適用することにより、ミセル相を用いた場合と同等の効果を奏する。なお、前述した液晶マイクロエマルションは、逆ミセル相(逆ミセル構造)を有するリオトロピック液晶の一例である。 【0097】

また、非イオン性界面活性剤であるペンタエチレングリコールードデシルエーテルの水溶液には、図10に示したような、スポンジ相やキュービック相を示す濃度および温度領域が存在する。このようなスポンジ相やキュービック相は、光の波長以下の秩序を有しているので透明な物質である。すなわち、これらの相からなる媒質は、光学的には等方性を示す。そして、これらの相からなる媒質に電圧を印加すると、配向秩序が変化して光学的異方性が発現する。したがって、スポンジ相やキュービック相を有するリオトロピック液晶もまた、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の媒質Aとして適用することができる。【0098】

〔液晶微粒子分散系〕

また、媒質Aは、例えば、非イオン性界面活性剤ペンタエチレングリコールードデシルエーテルの水溶液に、表面を硫酸基で修飾した直径100Å程度のラテックス粒子を混在させた、液晶微粒子分散系であってもよい。上記液晶微粒子分散系ではスポンジ相が発現するが、本実施の形態において用いられる媒質Aとしては、前述したミセル相、キュービック相、逆ミセル相等を発現する液晶微粒子分散系であってもよい。なお、上記ラテックス粒子に代えて前記DDABを使用することによって、前述した液晶マイクロエマルションと同様な配向構造を得ることもできる。

[0099]

〔デンドリマー〕

デンドリマーとは、モノマー単位毎に枝分かれのある三次元状の高分岐ボリマーである。デンドリマーは、枝分かれが多いために、ある程度以上の分子量になると球状構造となる。この球状構造は、光の波長以下の秩序を有しているので透明な物質であり、電圧印加によって配向秩序が変化して光学的異方性が発現する。したがって、デンドリマーもまた、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の媒質Aとして適用することができる。また、前述した液晶マイクロエマルションにおいてDDABに代えて上記デンドリマーを使用することにより、前述した液晶マイクロエマルションと同様な配向構造を得ることができる。このようにして得られた媒質もまた、上記媒質Aとして適用することができる。【0100】

〔コレステリックブル一相〕

コレステリックブルー相は、螺旋軸が3次元的に周期構造を形成しており、その構造は、高い対称性を有していることが知られている(例えば、非特許文献6・7参照)。コレステリックブルー相は、光の波長以下の秩序を有しているのでほぼ透明な物質であり、電圧印加によって配向秩序が変化して光学的異方性が発現する。すなわち、コレステリックブルー相は、光学的に概ね等方性を示し、電界印加によって液晶分子が電界方向に向こうとするために格子が歪み、異方性を発現する。

[0101]

なお、コレステリックブルー相を示す物質としては、例えば、「JC1041」(商品名、チッソ社製混合液晶)を48.2重量%、「5CB」(4ーシアノー4'ーペンチルピフェニル、ネマチック液晶)を47.4重量%、「ZLI-4572」(商品名、メルク社製カイラルドーパント)を4.4重量%の割合で混合してなる組成物が知られている。該組成物は、330.7Kから331.8Kの温度範囲で、コレステリックブルー相を示す。

[0102]

〔スメクチックブルー相〕

スメクチックブルー (BPsm)相は、コステリックブルー相と同様、高い対称性の構造を有し (例えば、非特許文献7、非特許文献10等参照)、光の波長以下の秩序を有し

ているのでほぼ透明な物質であり、電圧印加によって配向秩序が変化して光学的異方性が 発現する。すなわち、スメクチックブルー相は、光学的に概ね等方性を示し、電界印加に よって液晶分子が電界方向に向こうとするために格子が歪み、異方性を発現する。 【0103】

[0104]

以上のように、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子において媒質Aとして使用することができる物質は、電界の印加により光学的異方性(屈折率、配向秩序度)が変化するものでありさえすれば、ポッケルス効果またはカー効果を示す物質であってもよく、キュービック相、スメクチック D相、コレステリックブルー相、スメクチックブルー相の何れかを示す分子からなるものであってもよく、ミセル相、逆ミセル相、スポンジ相、キュービック相の何れかを示すリオトロピック液晶もしくは液晶微粒子分散系であってもよい。また、上記媒質Aは、液晶マイクロエマルションやデンドリマー(デンドリマー分子)、両親媒性分子、コポリマー、もしくは、上記以外の有極性分子等であってもよい。【0105】

また、上記媒質は、液晶性物質に限らず、電圧印加時または電圧無印加時に光の波長以下の秩序構造(配向秩序)を有することが好ましい。秩序構造が光の波長以下であれば、光学的に等方性を示す。従って、電圧印加時または電圧無印加時に秩序構造が光の波長以下となる媒質を用いることにより、電圧無印加時と電圧印加時とにおける表示状態を確実に異ならせることができる。

[0106]

以下、本実施の形態では、上記媒質Aとして、前記構造式(1)で示されるペンチルシアノビフェニル(5CB)を使用するものとするが、上記媒質Aとしては、これに限定されるものではなく、上記5CBに代えて、上述した各種物質を適用することができる。 【0107】

本実施の形態によれば、上記電極4・5としてITOを使用し、線幅5μm、電極間距離5μm、媒質層3の層厚(すなわち基板1・2間の距離)を10μmとし、媒質Aとして5CBを使用し、外部加温装置(加熱手段)により上記5CBをネマチック等方相の相転移直上近傍の温度(相転移温度よりも僅かに高い温度、例えば+0.1K)に保ち、電圧印加を行うことにより、透過率を変化させることができた。なお、上記5CBは、33・3℃未満の温度でネマチック相、それ以上の温度で等方相を示す。

[0108]

次に、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子における表示原理について、図1(a)·(b)、図4(a)·(b)、図6、および図7(a)~(g)を参照して以下に説明する。
【0109】

なお、以下の説明では、主に、上記表示案子として透過型の表示案子を使用し、電界無 印加時に光学的にはほぼ等方、好適には等方であり、電界印加により光学的異方性が発現 する物質を用いる場合を例に挙げて説明するものとするが、本発明はこれに限定されるも のではない。

[0110]

図4(a)は、電界無印加状態(OFF状態)における本実施の形態にかかる表示案子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図4(b)は、電圧印加状態(ON状態)における上記表示案子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図である。なお、図4(a)・(b)は

、上記表示案子における1 画案中の構成を示すものとし、説明の便宜上、対向基板12の構成については図示を省略する。なお、上記電極4・5としては、図3に示したように、櫛形電極であってもよく、上記基板1・2に略平行な電界を印加することができるものでさえあれば、特に限定されるものではない。また、図中、矢印は、偏光板吸収軸を示す。【0111】

さらに、図6は、図1(a)・(b)に示す表示素子における印加電圧と透過率との関係を示すグラフであり、図7(a)~(g)は、電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示素子と従来の液晶表示素子との表示原理の違いを、電圧無印加時(OFF状態)および電圧印加時(ON状態)における媒質の平均的な屈折率楕円体の形状(屈折率楕円体の切り口の形状にて示す)およびその主軸方向にて模式的に示す断面図であり、図7(a)~(g)は、順に、電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示素子の電圧無印加時(OFF状態)の断面図、該表示素子の電圧印加時(ON状態)の断面図、TN(Twisted Nematic)方式の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図、該TN方式の液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図、VA(Vertical Alignment)方式の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図、IPS(In Plane Switching)方式の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図、該IPS方式の液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図、該IPS方式の液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図、該IPS方式の液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図を示す。

【0112】

物質中の屈折率は、一般には等方的でなく方向によって異なっている。この屈折率の異方性は、基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)でかつ両電極4・5の対向方向、基板面に垂直な方向(基板法線方向)、基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)でかつ両電極4・5の対向方向に垂直な方向を、それぞれx,y,z方向とすると、任意の直交座標系(X₁,X₂,X₃)を用いて下記関係式(1)

[0113]

【数1】

$$\sum_{ij} \left(\frac{1}{n_{ij}^2} \right) X_i X_j = 1 \qquad \cdots (1)$$

[0114]

 $(n_{j,i} = n_{i,j}, i, j = 1, 2, 3)$

で表される楕円体(屈折率楕円体)で示される(例えば非特許文献 12 参照)。ここで、上記関係式(1)を楕円体の主軸方向の座標系(Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3)を使用して書き直すと、下記関係式(2)

【0115】

【数2】

$$\frac{Y_1^2}{n_1^2} + \frac{Y_2^2}{n_2^2} + \frac{Y_3^3}{n_3^3} = 1 \qquad \cdots (2)$$

[0116]

で示される。 n_1 、 n_2 、 n_3 (以下、 n_1 、 n_2 、 n_3 (以下、 n_3 、 n_4 n_4 、 n_4 、

まず、電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示素子と従来の液晶表示素子との表示原理の相違について、従来の液晶表示素子として、TN方式、VA方

式、IPS方式を例に挙げて説明する。

[0118]

[0119]

図7(c)・(d)に示すように、TN方式の液晶表示素子は、対向配置された一対の基板101・102間に液晶層105が挟持され、上記両基板101・102上にそれぞれ透明電極103・104(電極)が設けられている構成を有し、電圧無印加時には、液晶層105における液晶分子の長軸方向がらせん状に捻られて配向しているが、電圧印加時には、上記液晶分子の長軸方向が電界方向に沿って配向するようになっている。この場合における平均的な屈折率楕円体105 aは、電圧無印加時には、図7(c)に示すように、その主軸方向(長軸方向)が基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)を向き、電圧印加時には、図7(d)に示すように、その主軸方向が基板面法線方向を向く。すなわち、電圧無印加時と電圧印加時とで、屈折率楕円体105 aの形状は変わらずに、その主軸方向が変化する(屈折率楕円体105 aが回転する)。

VA方式の液晶表示案子は、図7(e)・(f)に示すように、対向配置された一対の基板201・202間に液晶層205が挟持され、上記両基板201・202上にそれぞれ透明電極(電極)203・204が備えられている構成を有し、電圧無印加時には、液晶層205における液晶分子の長軸方向が、基板面に対して略垂直な方向に配向しているが、電圧印加時には、上記液晶分子の長軸方向が電界に垂直な方向に配向する。この場合における平均的な屈折率楕円体205aは、図7(e)に示すように、電圧無印加時には、その主軸方向(長軸方向)が基板面に投行を方向を、図7(f)に示すように、電圧印加時にはその主軸方向が基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)を向く。すなわち、VA方式の液晶表示案子の場合にも、TN方式の液晶表示素子と同様、電圧無印加時と電圧印加時とで、屈折率楕円体205aの形状は変わらずに、その主軸方向が変化する(屈折率楕円体205aが回転する)。

[0120]

また、IPS方式の液晶表示素子は、図7(f)・(g)に示すように、同一の基板301上に、1対の電極302・303が対向配置された構成を有し、図示しない対向基板との間に挟持された液晶層に、上記電極302・303により電圧が印加されることで、上記液晶層における液晶分子の配向方向(屈折率楕円体305aの主軸方向(長軸方向))を変化させ、電圧無印加時と電圧印加時とで、異なる表示状態を実現することができるようになっている。すなわち、IPS方式の液晶表示素子の場合にも、TN方式およびVA方式の液晶表示素子と同様、図7(f)に示す電圧無印加時と図7(g)に示す電圧印加時とで、屈折率楕円体305aの形状は変わらずに、その主軸方向が変化する(屈折率楕円体305aが回転する)。

このように、従来の液晶表示素子では、電圧無印加時でも液晶分子が何らかの方向に配向しており、電圧を印加することによってその配向方向を変化させて表示(透過率の変調)を行っている。すなわち、屈折率楕円体の形状は変化しないが、屈折率楕円体の主軸方向が電圧印加によって回転(変化)することを利用して表示を行っている。つまり、従来の液晶表示素子では、液晶分子の配向秩序度は一定であり、配向方向を変化させることによって表示(透過率の変調)を行っている。

[0122]

[0121]

これに対し、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子も含め、電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示案子は、図7(a)・(b)に示すように、電圧無印加時における屈折率楕円体3aの形状は球状、すなわち、光学的に等方(nx=ny=nz、配向秩序度=0)であり、電圧を印加することによって異方性(nx>ny、配向秩序度>0)が発現するようになっている。なお、上記nx、ny、nzは、それぞれ、基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)でかつ両電極4・5の対向方向の主屈折率、基板面に垂直な方向(基板法線方向)の主屈折率、基板面に平行な方向(基板面内方向)でかつ両電極4・5の対向方向に垂直な方向の主屈折率を表している。

【0123】

このように、本実施の形態にかかる表示索子は、光学的異方性の方向は一定(電圧印加 方向は変化しない)で例えば配向秩序度を変調させることによって表示を行うものであり 、従来の液晶表示素子とは表示原理が大きく異なっている。

[0124]

本実施の形態にかかる表示累子は、図1(a)に示すように、電極 $4\cdot5$ に電圧を印加していない状態では、基板 $1\cdot2$ 間に封入される媒質A(媒質B3)が等方相を示し、光学的にも等方となるので、黒表示になる。

[0125]

一方、図1(b)に示すように、電極4・5に電圧を印加すると、上記媒質Aの各分子10が、その長軸方向が上記電極4・5間に形成される電界に沿うように配向されるので、複屈折現象が発現する。この複屈折現象により、電極4・5間の電圧に応じて表示素子の透過率を変調することができる。

[0126]

なお、相転移温度(転移点)から十分違い温度においては表示素子の透過率を変調させるために必要な電圧は大きくなるが、転移点のすぐ直上の温度では0~100V前後の電圧で、十分に透過率を変調させることが可能になる。

[0127]

例えば、非特許文献9および非特許文献12によれば、電界方向の屈折率と、電界方向に垂直な方向の屈折率とを、それぞれn//、n1とすると、複屈折変化($\Delta n = n$ //-n1)と、外部電界、すなわち電界E(V/m)との関係は、下記関係式(3)

 $\Delta n = \lambda \cdot B_k \cdot E^2 \quad \cdots (3)$

で表される。なお、 λ は真空中での入射光の波長(m)、 B_k はカー定数(m/V^2)、 Eは印加電界強度(V/m)である。

[0128]

カー定数Bは、温度(T)の上昇とともに1/(T-Tni)に比例する関数で減少することが知られており、転移点(Tni)近傍では弱い電界強度で駆動できていたとしても、温度(T)が上昇するとともに急激に必要な電界強度が増大する。このため、転移点から十分違い温度(転移点よりも十分に高い温度)では透過率を変調させるために必要な電圧が大きくなるが、相転移直上の温度では、約100V以下の電圧で、透過率を十分に変調させることができる。

[0129]

しかしながら、本願発明者等が検討した結果、配向秩序度を変調させることによって表示を行う場合、場合によっては、コントラストが低下することがあることが判った。

本願発明者等の検討によれば、コントラストが低下する要因としては、以下の2つの要因が挙げられる。

[0131]

[0130]

まず一つには、電界の印加により光学的異方性が発現する媒質Aを表示媒質に用いた従来の表示素子または該表示素を備えた表示装置において電源の投入を行ったとき、周囲温度が低い場合には、上記媒質Aが本来駆動されるべき温度に達しておらず、媒質Aの物理的な状態が、案子駆動時に本来有しているべき状態とは異なっていることがあることが挙げられる。例えば、上記媒質Aがネマチック一等方相の相転移温度直上の等方相状態で、本来駆動しなければならない場合、電源投入時に、上記相転移温度よりも低温のネマチック状態になっていることがある。この場合、電界無印加状態では本来等方状態により黒表示を達成しなければならないときに、無電界印加でも光学的異方性を有するネマチックでは、その光学的異方性により光を透過させてしまうことになる。したがって、このような場合には、良好な黒表示ができなくなり、コントラストが低下してしまう。もちろん、ヒータや光源(バックライト)により表示索子を過熱し、良好な表示を得ることができるが、瞬時に温度を上昇させ、また安定化させることは容易なことではない。

[0132]

もう一つは、基板界面から離れた領域では上記媒質A(表示媒質)が光学的等方状態を 実現していても、基板界面、特に基板1界面では、基板1により媒質Aを構成する分子1 〇が強固に吸着されてしまうために、光学的等方状態を実現できなくなる場合があること が挙げられる。例えば、ネマチック一等方相の相転移温度直上〇.1Kの温度で駆動させ る場合、基板界面付近はネマチック状態になっている。 【0133】

いずれにせよ、基板界面付近では、吸着現象により、上記媒質Aの物理状態が、素子駆動時に本来有しているべき状態とは異なり、セル内部における、基板界面から離れたバルク領域とは異なる、基板界面近傍の媒質Aにより、黒表示時においても光が透過してしまう現象が発生し、この結果、コントラストが低下してしまうという問題がある。

本実施の形態にかかる表示素子でも、転移点未満の温度ではネマチック液晶相が析出する点は、上記従来の表示素子と同様である。しかしながら、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子によれば、例えば、電源投入時に周囲温度が上記転移点よりも低く、媒質Aが、本来駆動されるべき温度に達していない場合、析出したネマチック液晶相は、上記配向膜8・9における配向(処理)方向、この場合は、図5に示すように、偏光板吸収軸方向(図中、矢印にて示す)に配向するために、上記ネマチック液晶相、つまり、物理的状態が本来の駆動時の状態と異なる媒質による光学的な寄与は無い。この結果、ヒータおよびバックライトにより表示素子の温度が上昇するまでの間においても良好な黒表示を実現することができた。

[0135]

すなわち、本実施の形態によれば、たとえ電圧無印加時に光学異方性が発現したとしても、上記画素基板11および対向基板2における互いの対向表面に、一方の偏光板吸収軸と平行または直交する方向の水平配向処理を施し、その光学異方性の方向、つまり、配向方向を、上記偏光板吸収軸と平行または直交する方向にしておくことで、その光学的寄与を消失させることができる。つまり、本実施の形態において、上記画素基板11および対向基板12における互いの対向面表面に水平配向処理が施されていることで、基板界面の媒質A、厳密には該媒質Aを構成する分子10は、素子駆動温度未満の温度で、上記配向処理における配向(処理)方向に沿って配向する。

[0136]

また、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子によれば、所望の駆動温度領域に達したとしても、 基板界面に吸着した分子による黒表示時の光の漏れは観測されず、 高いコントラストを 実現することができた。この結果、コントラストが低下することがなく、 高速応答性、 視野角特性に優れた表示素子を得ることができた。

[0137]

なお、上記基板 1・2 における互いのラビング方向は、前記したように、直交、平行または反平行であることが望ましいが、より望ましくは、平行または反平行のときである。 上記両基板 1・2 に水平配向処理を行うと共に、互いの水平配向方向を平行または反平行とすることで、コントラストを最大化することができ、この結果、黒輝度をより小さくすることができた。

[0138]

なお、本実施の形態では、両基板1・2(画素基板11および対向基板12)に対し、配向膜8・9の形成並びにラビング処理を行ったが、上記した効果は、一方の基板のみにラビング処理を行った場合であっても得ることはできる。この場合、両基板1・2に上記配向膜8・9を形成した場合、つまり、両基板1・2に配向処理を施した場合ほどの効果は得られないが、電極4・5を形成した基板1とは反対側の基板2だけに配向膜(配向膜9)を形成しておけば、基板1側の配向膜8に由来する電圧降下が発生せず、素子の駆動電圧が上昇することもなく、実用上のメリットが大きい。また、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得るこ

とができた。また、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光 漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得ることができた。

[0139]

一方、比較のために、図11(a)・(b)に示すように、配向膜8・9を形成せず、配向処理を行わない以外は上記した本実施の形態と同様の構成を有する表示素子を用いて、電源投入時に周囲温度が上記転移点よりも低い場合に、表示素子の温度が上昇するまでの間の黒表示時の光の漏れを調べた。

[0140]

図11(a)は、電圧無印加状態(OFF状態)における比較用の表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図であり、図11(b)は電圧印加状態(ON状態)における比較用の表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図である。また、図12(a)は、駆動温度未満の温度における比較用の表示素子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図12(b)は、図12(a)に示す表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界(配向)方向との関係を示す説明図である。

[0141]

配向処理を行わない場合には、図12(a)に示すように、低温時の析出したネマチック液晶相は、ランダムに配向しており、この析出したネマチック液晶相の分子10の配向方向は基板面内方向、すなわち、基板面に平行な方向のあらゆる方向を向いてしまう。この結果、光漏れを発生させ、バックライトおよびヒータによる加温時において所望の駆動温度となるまでの間、電圧無印加であっても大きな黒輝度の上昇を発生させた。また、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れが発生するために、高いコントラストを得ることができなかった。

[0142]

なお、前記特許文献1には、カー効果を増大させるために、基板の外側面に、偏光板を、互いの吸収軸方向が平行または直交すると共にラピング方向とは45度の角度をなすように配設することが開示されている。しかしながら、該構成によっても、物理的状態が本来の駆動時の状態と異なる媒質による光学的寄与を消失させることができず、良好な黒表示を得ることができず、高いコントラストを得ることはできなかった。具体的には、ΔT=0.1Kにおいて、50V印加時を白、0V印加時を黒とした場合、本発明によれば500以上のコントラストが得られるのに対して、特許文献1の構成では200以下のコントラストしか得られなかった。なお、コントラストは、例えば、ELDIM社(フランス)製の「EZContrast」によって容易に測定することができる。 よって、上記結果から、光学的異方性の方向は一定(電圧印加方向は変化しない)で例えば配向秩序度を変調させることによって表示を行う表示案子では、偏光板吸収軸方向と基板表面の配向処理方向とが特定の関係を有することで、前記効果を得ることができることが判る。

[0143]

なお、本実施の形態では、主に、透過型の表示素子を例に挙げて説明したが、本発明は これに限定されるものではなく、反射型の表示素子としてもよい。

[0144]

図13に、本発明を適用した、本実施の形態にかかる反射型の表示禁子の概略構成の一例を示す。

[0145]

上記反射型の表示索子は、画索基板11が、例えば、ガラス基板等からなる一方の基板1上に反射層21を設けると共に、該反射層21上に、必要に応じて絶縁層22を介して、例えばITO等の電極4・5 (例えば梅形電極)が設けられている構成を有している。なお、その他の構成については、前記した通りである。上記絶縁層22としては、アクリル系樹脂等の有機膜; 窒化ケイ素、酸化ケイ素等の無機膜; を適用することができる。また、上記反射層21としては、アルミニウムや銀の薄膜等を適用することができる。上記の構成においては、反射層21がガラス基板等の透明基板からなる他方の基板2から入射してきた光を反射することができるため、反射型の表示案子として機能する。

[0146]

なお、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子を反射型の表示素子として使用する場合、上記電極4・5としては、透過型の表示素子として用いる場合のようにITO等の透明電極材料以外にも、アルミニウム等の金属電極材料等、電極材料として従来公知の各種材料を用いることができる。また、電極4・5の線幅や電極間距離(電極間隔)等も特に限定されるものではなく、例えば、基板1と基板2との間のギャップ等に応じて任意に設定することができる。

[0147]

さらに、本実施の形態では、上記基板 1・2として、ガラス基板を用いた場合を例に挙げて説明したが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではなく、基板 1・2のうち、少なくとも一方が透明な基板であればよく、例えば従来公知の各種基板を使用することができる。 【0148】

なお、上記基板 1・2としては、従来基板として用いられているものに限定されるものではなく、例えばフィルム状であってもよく、また、可撓性を有するものであってもよく、少なくとも一方が透明であり、上記媒質Aを基板間、つまり、内部に保持(挟持)することができるものであれば、媒質Aの種類や相の状態等に応じて、様々な材料を使用することができる。

[0149]

また、本実施の形態では、具体例として、媒質Aとして電界無印加時に光学的には等方であり、電界印加により光学的異方性が発現する物質を使用した場合を例に挙げて説明したが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではなく、上記媒質Aが電界印加により異方性が消失し、光学的に等方性を示す物質であってもよいことは、前述した通りである。

[0150]

以下に、上記媒質Aとして電界印加により異方性が消失し、光学的に等方性を示す物質を用いた具体例を示す。

[0151]

本具体例においては、ガラス基板からなる透明な2枚の基板1・2のうち一方の基板1における基板2との対向面に、ITOからなる、透明な電極4・5と、ポリイミドからなる配向膜とを形成すると共に、両基板1・2間に、媒質Aとして、透明な誘電性物質である4'-n-アルコキシー3'-ニトロビフェニルー4ーカルボン酸(ANBC-22)を封入した。また、上記表示素子における媒質層3の厚みは、上記基板1・2の対向面に予めプラスチックビーズを散布しておくことにより、4μmになるように調整した。なお、上記電極4・5には、図3に示したような櫛形電極を用いた。【0152】

なお、偏光板6・7は、前記したように、互いの吸収軸6a・7aが直交するとともに、各偏光板6・7における吸収軸6a・7aと、櫛形電極である電極4・5における櫛歯部分4a・5aの電極伸長方向とが約45度の角度をなすように、それぞれ基板1・2の外側(対向面の反対側)に設けた。

[0153]

このようにして得られた表示素子を、外部加温装置(加熱手段)により、スメクチック C相ーキュービック相の相転移近傍の温度(相転移温度の低温側10K程度まで)に保ち、電圧印加(50V程度の交流電場(0より大きく数百kHzまで))を行ったところ、透過率を変化させることができた。すなわち、電圧無印加時に光学的異方性を示すスメクチックC相(明状態)に、電圧を印加することにより、等方的なキュービック相(暗状態)に変化させることができた。

[0154]

また、基板1・2に、それぞれ電極を設け、基板面法線方向の電界を発生させても、ほぼ同様の結果が得られた。すなわち、電界方向は基板面水平方向だけでなく、基板面法線方向でもほぼ同様な結果が得られた。

[0155]

このように、本実施の形態にかかる表示案子に用いられる媒質Aとしては、電界無印加時に光学的異方性を有し、電界印加により光学的異方性が消失して光学的等方性を示す媒質を用いてもよい。

[0156]

本実施の形態にかかる表示素子によれば、基板界面に吸着した分子による黒表示時の光 の漏れは観測されず、高いコントラストを実現することができた。この結果、コントラス トが低下することがなく、高速応答性、視野角特性に優れた表示素子を得ることができた

[0157]

すなわち、電界印加でバルク領域の媒質Aの光学的異方性を消失させることができても、基板界面に吸着した分子10(媒質A)はその吸着力が大きく、電界印加でその異方性を消失させることは容易ではない。しかしながら、本発明の構成によれば、この基板界面近傍の光学的異方性による光学的寄与をなくす効果があり、このため、上記したように高いコントラストを得ることができた。

[0158]

また、上記媒質Aは、正の誘電異方性を有するものであっても、負の誘電異方性を有するものであってもよい。媒質Aとして正の誘電率異方性を有する媒質を用いた場合には、基板1・2に概ね平行な電界にて駆動する必要があるが、負の誘電異方性を有する媒質を適用した場合にはその限りではない。例えば、基板1・2に斜めの電界によっても駆動可能であり、垂直な電界によっても駆動可能であり、この場合には、電極の形状、材質および配置位置を適宜変更すればよい。なお、透明電極を用いて垂直に電界を印加すれば、開口率の点で有利である。

[0159]

〔実施の形態2〕

本発明の実施の他の形態について図14(a)~(c)ないし図16に基づいて説明すれば、以下の通りである。なお、本実施の形態では、主に、前記実施の形態1との相違点について説明するものとし、前記実施の形態1で用いた構成要素と同一の機能を有する構成要素には同一の番号を付し、その説明を省略する。

[0160]

前記実施の形態1では、画素基板11並びに対向基板12の表面の配向処理に、偏光板 吸収軸に平行または直交する水平配向処理を行う場合を例に挙げて説明したが、本実施の 形態では、上記配向処理として、垂直配向を行う場合を例に挙げて以下に説明するものと する。

[0161]

図14(a)は、電界無印加状態(OFF状態)における本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図14(b)は、電圧印加状態(ON状態)における上記表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図14(c)は、上記表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界(配向)方向とラビング方向との関係を説明する図である。また、図15は、駆動温度未満の温度における上記表示素子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図16は、駆動温度未満の温度における比較用の表示案子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面図である。

[0162]

本実施の形態にかかる表示素子の構成は、例えば図14(a)~(c)に示すように、配向膜8・9における配向処理の方向を除けば、基本的には前記実施の形態1に記載の表示素子と同様である。本実施の形態によれば、上記配向膜8・9に垂直配向処理を施しておくことで、例えば、電源投入時に周囲温度が上記媒質Aの転移点よりも低い場合、ネマチック液晶相が析出するが、図15に示すように、析出したネマチック液晶相の分子10が、配向(処理)方向である基板法線方向に配向するために、光学的な寄与は無い。すなわち、本実施の形態にかかる表示素子によれば、垂直配向を実現するような配向処理を施しておくことにより、たとえ電圧無印加時に光学異方性が発現したとしても、その光学異

方性の方向を、基板面に垂直になるようにしておくことで、光学的寄与を消失させることができる。つまり、本実施の形態においても、上記画案基板11および対向基板12における互いの対向面表面に垂直配向処理が施されていることで、基板界面の媒質A、厳密には該媒質Aを構成する分子10は、素子駆動温度未満の温度で、上記配向処理における配向方向に沿って配向することで、ヒータおよびバックライトにより表示素子の温度が上昇するまでにおいても良好な黒表示を実現することが可能になる。また、駆動温度領域に違成したとしても、黒表示時の光の漏れは観測されず、高いコントラストを実現することができた。また、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得ることができた。

[0163]

すなわち、上記配向処理として垂直処理を行った場合でも、前記実施の形態1に示したように、低温時に析出してきたネマチック液晶相や、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生しないために、コントラストを向上させることができた。

[0164]

一方、配向処理を行わない場合には、図16に示すように、低温時の析出したネマチック液晶相はランダムに配向しており、この析出したネマチック液晶相の分子10の配向方向は基板面内方向、すなわち、基板面に平行な方向のあらゆる方向を向いてしまう。 【0165】

この結果、光漏れを発生させ、バックライトおよびヒータによる加温時において所望の 駆動温度となるまでの間、電圧無印加であっても大きな黒輝度の上昇を発生させた。また 、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れが発生するために、高いコントラストを得ることができなかった。

[0166].

以上の結果から、本実施の形態においても、光学的異方性の方向は一定(電圧印加方向は変化しない)で例えば配向秩序度を変調させることによって表示を行う表示案子では、 偏光板吸収軸方向と基板表面の配向処理方向とが特定の関係を有することで、前記効果を 得ることができることが判る。

[0167]

なお、本実施の形態でも、両基板1・2(画案基板11および対向基板12)に対し、配向膜8・9の形成並びにラビング処理を行ったが、上記した効果は、一方の基板のみにラビング処理を行った場合であっても得ることはできる。この場合にも、両基板1・2に上記配向膜8・9を形成した場合、つまり、両基板1・2に配向処理を施した場合ほどの効果は得られないが、電極4・5を形成した基板1とは反対側の基板2だけに配向膜(配向膜9)を形成しておけば、配向膜8に由来する電圧降下が発生せず、案子の駆動電圧が上昇することもなく、実用上のメリットが大きい。また、所望の駆動温度になったとしても、基板界面に吸着した分子による光漏れは発生せず、高いコントラストを得ることができた。

[0168]

本実施の形態で用いられる上記垂直配向膜としては種々のものを利用でき、ポリイミドやシランカップリング剤、レシチン等が挙げられるが、特に限定されるものではない。 【0169】

上記垂直配向膜として例えばポリイミド等を用いる場合には、例えば、基板1および/ または基板2上にこれらの材料を塗布して配向膜を形成した後にラビング処理を施せばよい。また、シランカップリング剤を用いる場合には、LB膜のように引き上げ法で作成すればよい。

[0170]

また、上記配向膜8・9としては、市販の垂直配向膜を用いることができる。 【0171】

さらに、本実施の形態においても、上記配向膜8・9としては、その配向制御が容易であることから、前記光官能基を有する配向膜を使用してもよい。本実施の形態においても

、上記配向膜8・9が光官能基を有する場合、上記画素基板11および対向基板12表面、すなわち、上記配向膜8・9表面に偏光紫外光照射を行って配向規制力を発現させることにより、容易に所望の配向処理を行うことができる。

[0172]

なお、上記実施の形態1・2では、主に、基板に略平行な電界を印加する場合を例に挙げて説明したが、本発明にかかる表示素子は、基板に斜めの電界によっても駆動可能であり、また、垂直な電界によっても駆動可能である。この場合には、対向する一対の基板(基板1および2)の双方に電極を備え、両基板に備えられた電極間に電界を印加することによって、媒質層3に電界を印加すればよい。

[0173]

また、上記実施の形態 1 · 2では、画索基板 1 1 および対向基板 1 2の両基板もしくは 何れか一方の基板に、前記水平配向処理もしくは垂直配向処理の何れかの配向処理が行われている場合を例に挙げて説明したが、基板界面における分子 1 0 は、前記した配向処理方向(ラピング方向)に配向するものの、その分子間相互作用は、セル内部の基板界面から離れたバルク領域にまでは及ばず、該バルク領域の分子 1 0 の配向方向を変化させることはないため、一方の基板に水平配向処理が施され、他方の基板には垂直配向処理が施されている構成としても構わない。

[0174]

なお、本発明は上述した各実施形態に限定されるものではなく、請求項に示した範囲で 種々の変更が可能であり、異なる実施形態にそれぞれ開示された技術的手段を適宜組み合 わせて得られる実施形態についても本発明の技術的範囲に含まれる。

【産業上の利用可能性】

[0175]

本発明の表示素子は、広視野角特性および高速応答特性に優れた表示素子であり、例えば、テレビやモニタ等の画像表示装置や、ワープロやパーソナルコンピュータ等の〇A機器、あるいは、ビデオカメラ、デジタルカメラ、携帯電話等の情報端末等に備えられる画像表示装置に、広く適用することができる。また、本発明の表示素子は、上記したように、広視野角特性および高速応答特性を有し、また、コントラストの低下を防止することができるので、大画面表示や動画表示にも適している。

【図面の簡単な説明】

[0176]

- 【図1】(a)は、電圧無印加状態における本発明の実施の一形態にかかる表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図であり、(b)は、電圧印加状態における上記表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図である。
- 【図2】上記表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界(配向)方向とラビング方向との関係を説明する図である。
- 【図3】上記表示素子における電極構造の一例および該電極構造と偏光板吸収軸との関係を説明する図である。
- 【図4】図4(a)は、電界無印加状態における上記表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、図4(b)は、電圧印加状態における上記表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図である。
- 【図5】駆動温度未満の温度における上記表示案子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面 図である
- 【図6】図1(a)·(b)に示す表示素子における印加電圧と透過率との関係を示すグラフである。
- 【図7】電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示素子と従来の液晶表示素子との表示原理の違いを、電圧無印加時および電圧印加時における媒質の平均的な屈折率楕円体の形状およびその主軸方向にて模式的に示す断面図であり、(a)は電界の印加による光学的異方性の変化を利用して表示を行う表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図であり、(b)は(a)に示す表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図であり、(c)はTN方式

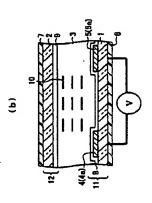
の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図であり、(d)は(c)に示す液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図であり、(e)はVA方式の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図であり、(f)は(e)に示す液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図であり、(g)はIPS方式の液晶表示素子の電圧無印加時の断面図であり、(h)は(g)に示す液晶表示素子の電圧印加時の断面図である。

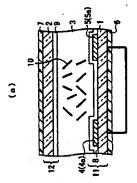
- 【図8】液晶マイクロエマルションの逆ミセル相混合系の一例を示す模式図である。
- 【図9】液晶マイクロエマルションの逆ミセル相混合系の他の例を示す模式図である。
- 【図10】リオトロピック液晶相の分類図である。
- 【図11】(a)は、電圧無印加状態における比較用の表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図であり、(b)は、電圧印加状態における上記比較用の表示素子の要部の概略構成を模式的に示す断面図である。
- 【図12】(a)は、駆動温度未満の温度における上記比較用の表示素子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、(b)は、上記比較用の表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界(配向)方向との関係を示す説明図である。
- 【図13】本発明の実施の一形態にかかる反射型の表示素子の概略構成の一例を示す断面図である。
- 【図14】(a)は、電界無印加状態における本発明の他の実施の形態にかかる表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、(b)は、電圧印加状態における上記表示素子の構成を模式的に示す要部平面図であり、(c)は、上記表示素子における偏光板吸収軸と電界(配向)方向とラビング方向との関係を説明する図である。
- 【図15】駆動温度未満の温度における本発明の他の実施の形態にかかる表示素子の媒質の 状態を模式的に示す要部平面図である。
- 【図16】駆動温度未満の温度における比較用の表示案子の媒質の状態を模式的に示す要部平面図である。

【符号の説明】

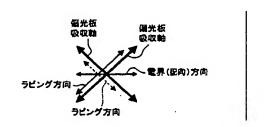
[0177]	
1	基板
2	基板
3	媒質層
3 a	屈折率楕円体
4	軍極
4 a	櫛歯部分
5	電極
5 a	櫛歯部分
6	偏光板
6 a	吸収軸
7	偏光板
7 a	. 吸収軸
8	配向膜
9	配向膜
1 1	画素基板
1 2	対向基板
21	反射層
22	絶縁層

【図1】

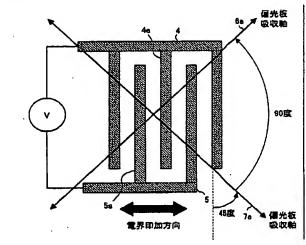




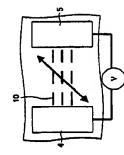
【図2】



【図3】

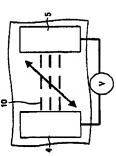


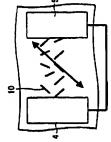
【図4】



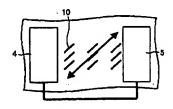
(B)

(9)



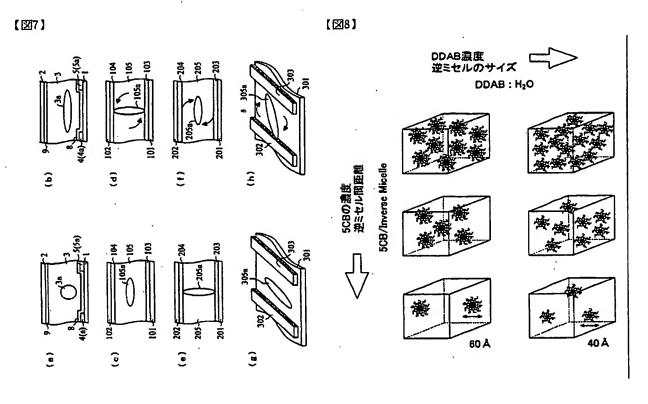


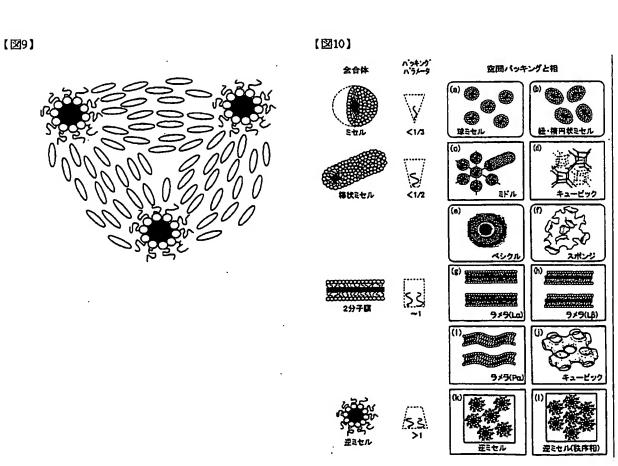
【図5】



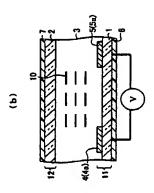
【図6】

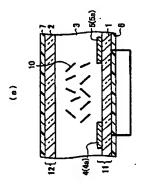




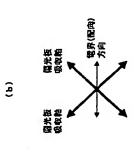


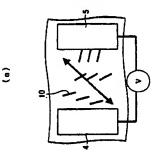
【図11】



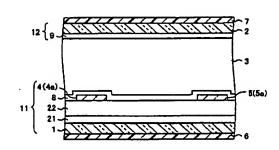


【図12】





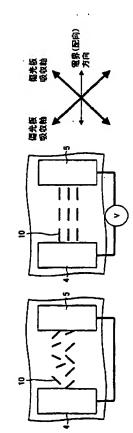
【図13】



【図14】

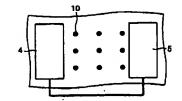
<u>。</u>

(P)

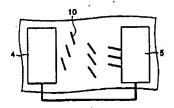


(0)

【図15】



【図16】



Fターム(参考) 2H088 GA02 GA03 GA04 GA10 HA01 HA02 HA03 HA18 HA28 JA03 JA05 MA02 MA07 MA10 2H090 KA03 LA01 LA02 LA03 LA09 LA16 MA02 MB01